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THE GREATEST LIVING SHOW

On moonlit nights,

Within this great fair, a carousal awaits.

An audience of shadows, rocking in merriment

To the greatest show, oh, perhaps the greatest ever been told.

Dancers, perfumed in milk and honey

Lyons, roaring like the orchestral pit

And the ringmaster, with his most alluring smile...

I, too, wish to stand upon his stage.

FOREWORD



*Hello dear reader, I am Bani, and you probably do not even know me... waha!
But thank you so much for
purchasing this book!!*

*First off, this book and the animation
probably would not exist if I had not deeply
fallen in love with the song "THE
GREATEST LIVING SHOW"
that Toby provided me.*



*Initially, the music video was supposed to be rather simple, with
mostly still images and small animations for the important parts.
I was given around two months to finish it... and I completely
failed at doing that! Wah...!*

*Luckily, or somehow... When I gave Toby the first 30 seconds of the
animation, he wanted to give me as much time as I needed to finish it.*

... and... I gave it my all!!! Gwoaargh!!



*Itoki Hana's deep and mysterious voice
really gave me goosebumps when I was first
listening to the song! Not to mention when it
goes really all-in and loud! Wahh!!*



And after two long years it was done.

*All in all... I can barely express the honor
I felt working on this music video.*

*I am deeply thankful for all the support
Toby has given me.*

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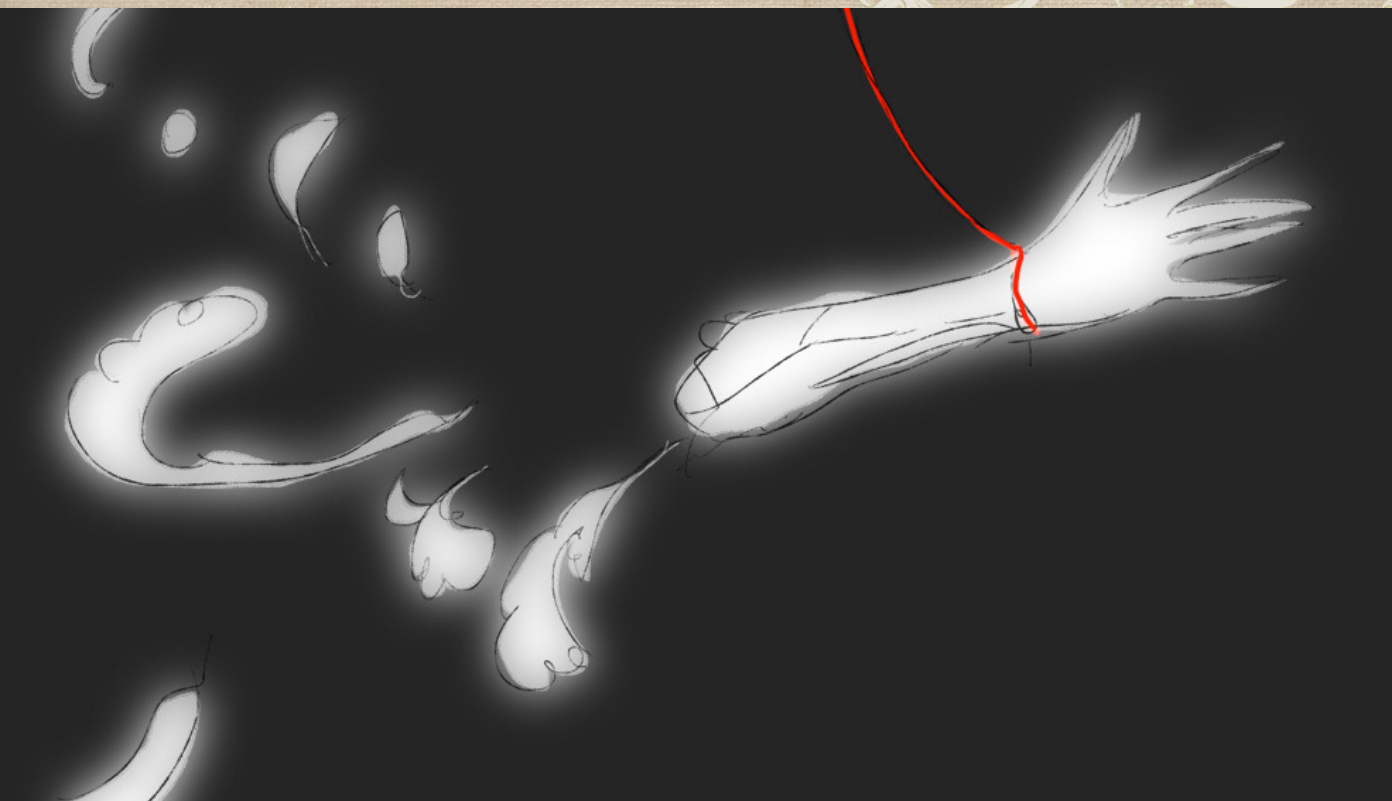
This was my very first design for the protagonist.

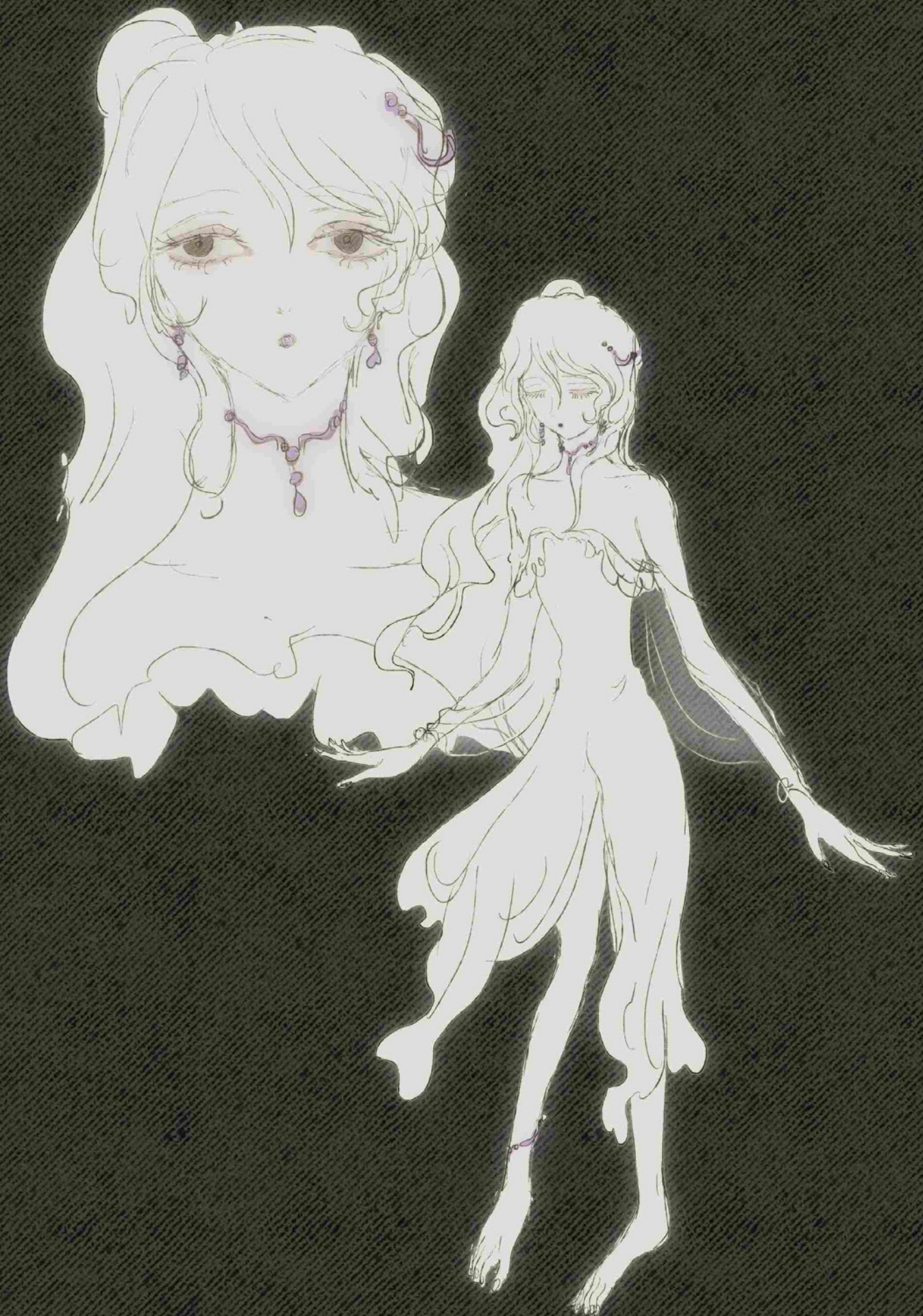
My idea was to make a stark white design to create a contrast with the dark shades who visit the show.

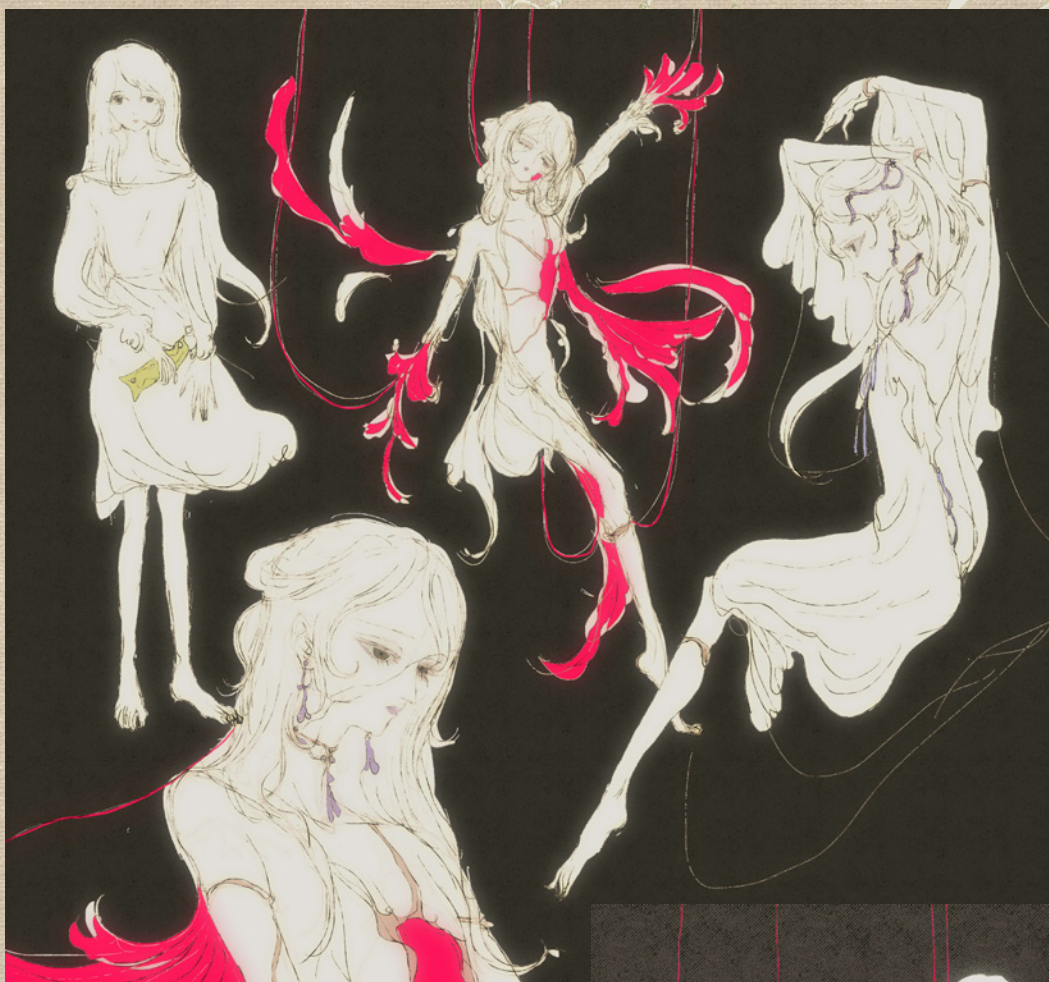


My idea was that the protagonist, when turning into a doll, was shattered into flower parts.

Later I gave them more of a crimson color, like the life energy of the entire carnival.



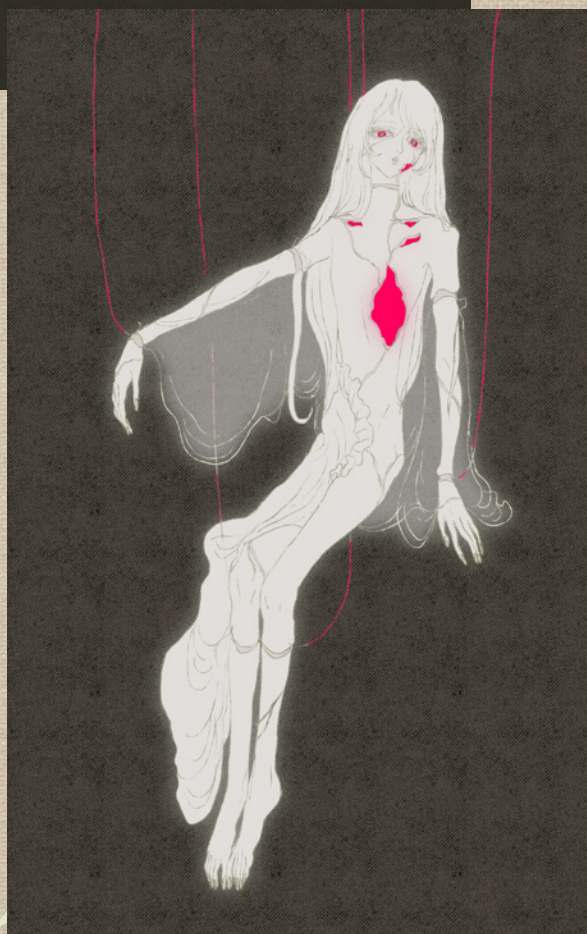


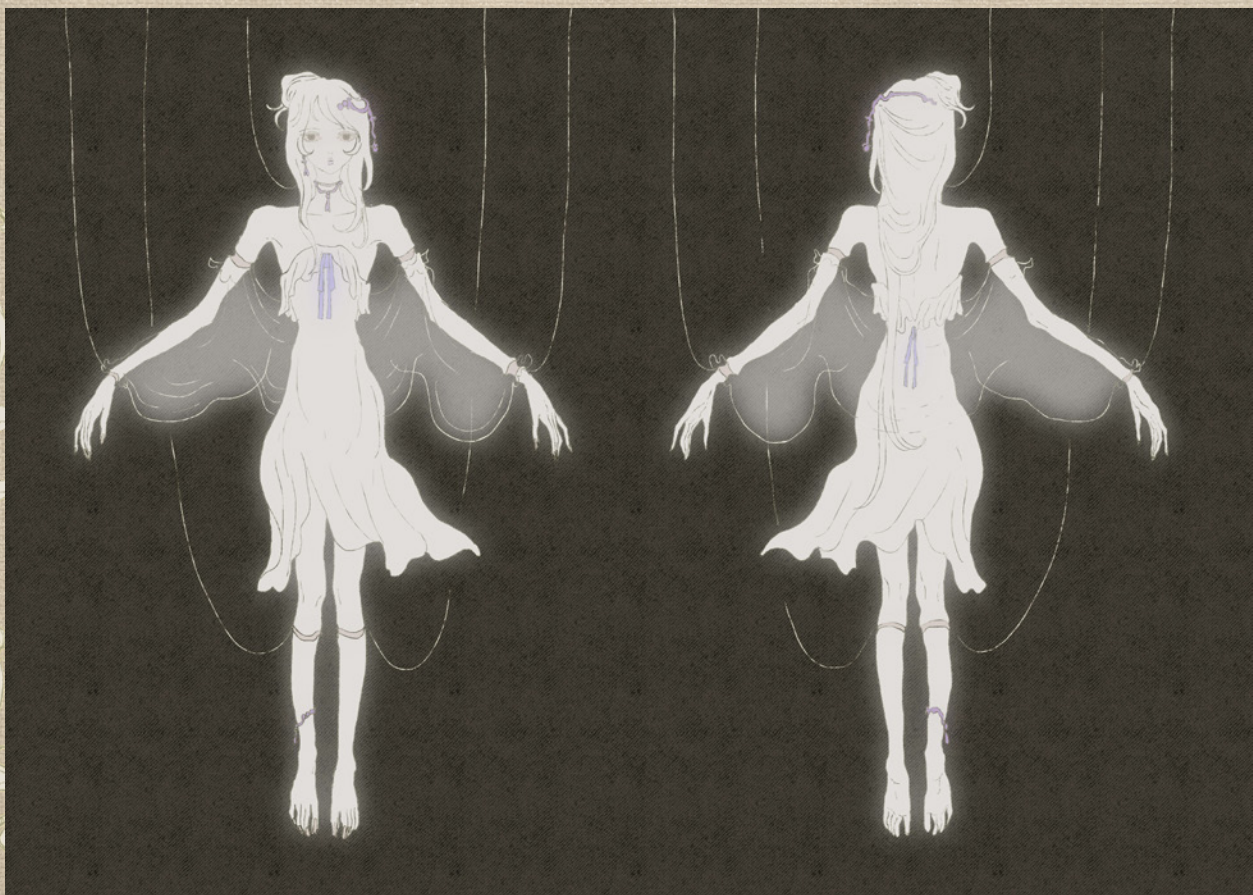
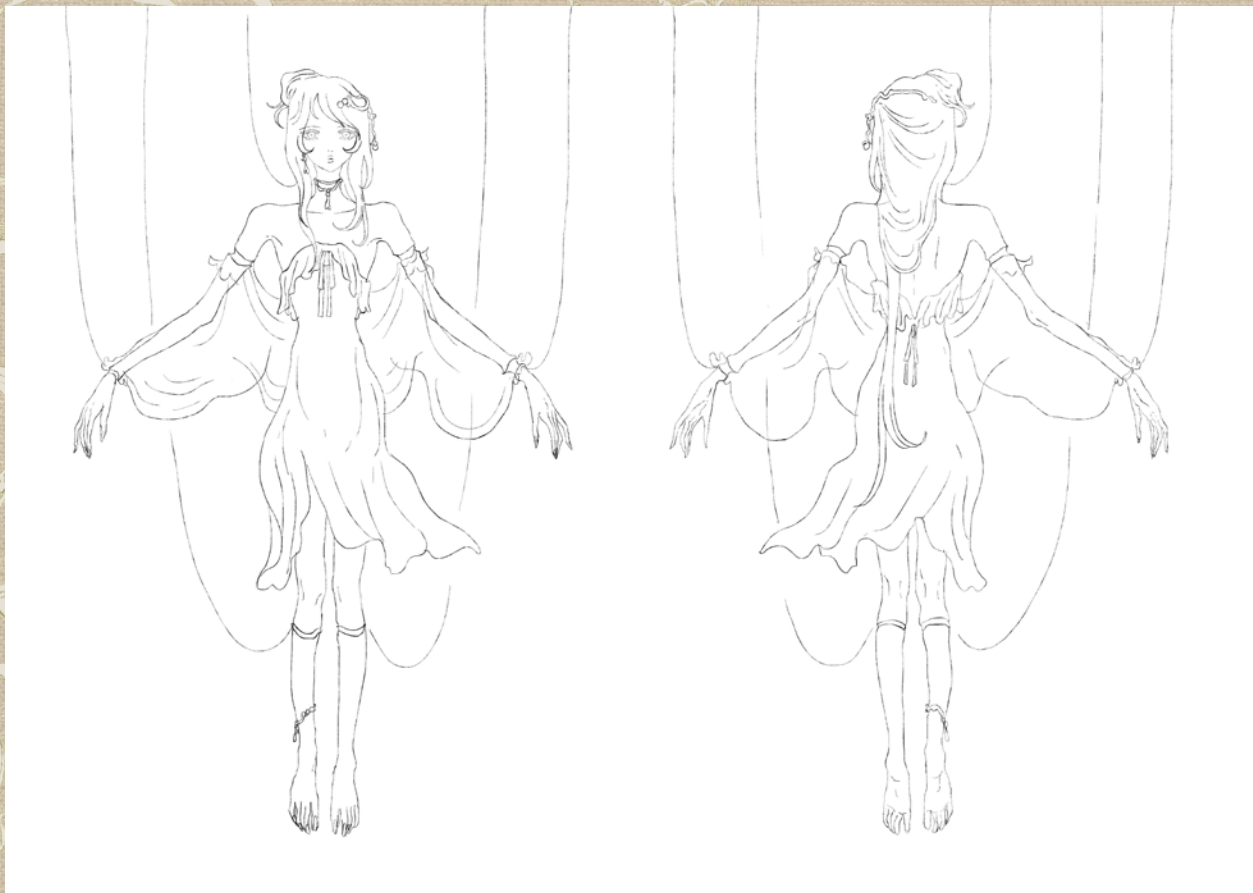


Some later concepts of the protagonist.

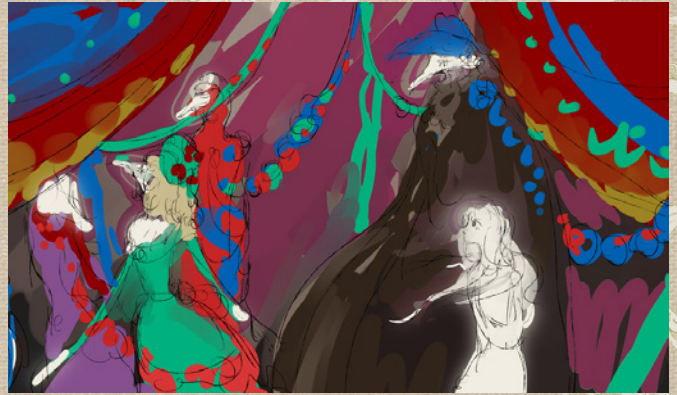
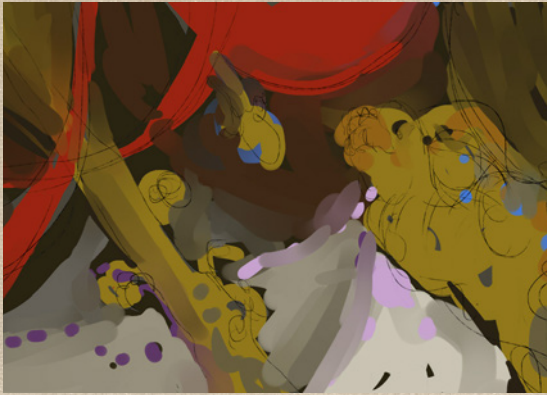
I think I made this design rather androgynous to create more of a pure look.

Maybe this design is most pure as a doll.

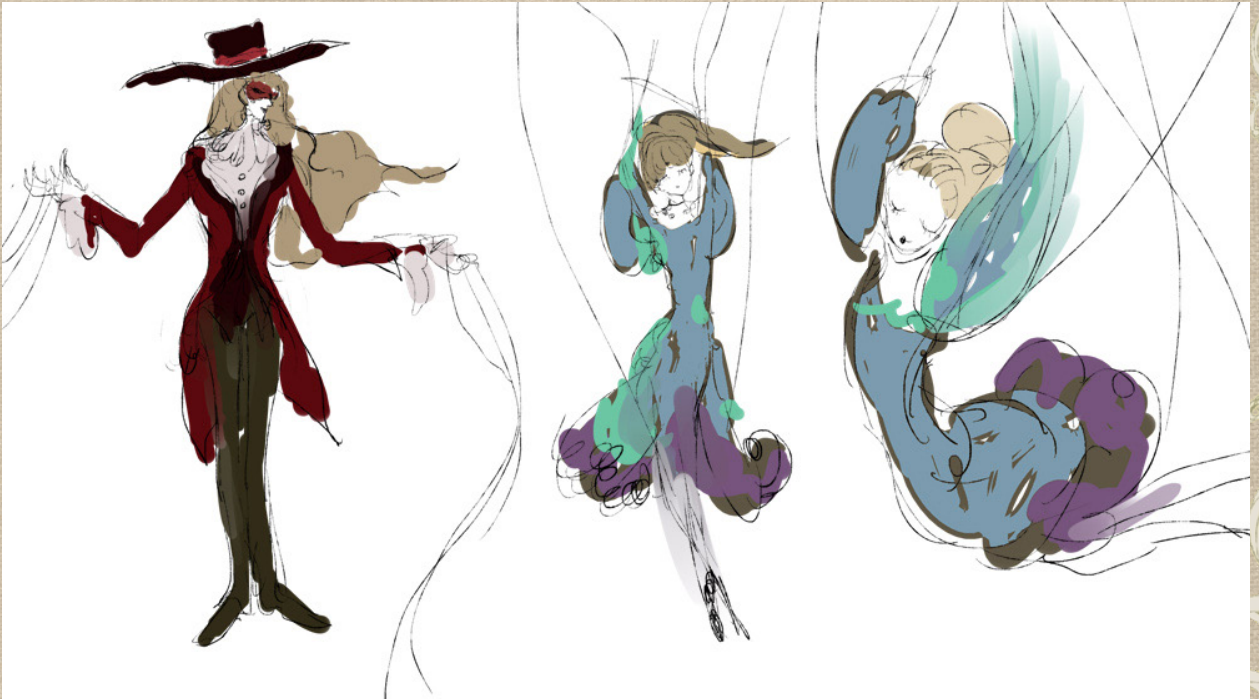




The Greatest Living Show takes the form of a grand carnival, or at least that's what I was kind of imagining. But I also wanted it to feel like a shift to another world.



One reason for that is that I have never really seen a carnival or a show myself, except in books or movies. So I made it very fantasy-like, like how I imagined it could be! Very grand and magical!



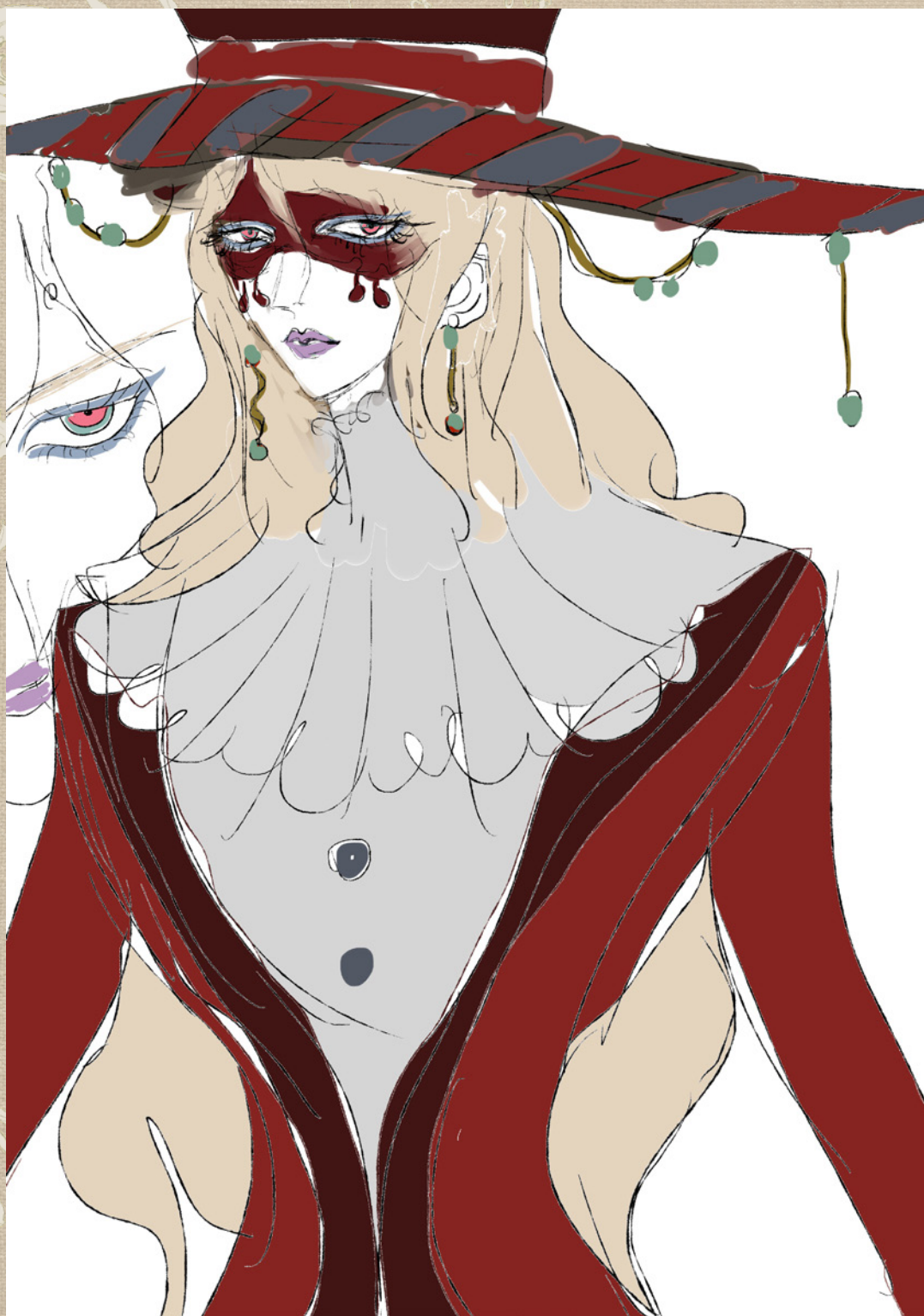
This is my very first concept of the ringmaster. I think when I searched for carnival-related images, I found some kind of a creepy-looking jester costume. But it intrigued me so much that I gave the ringmaster a long, colorful hat.

("Unfortunately my mom hated this hat...")

Also, I asked Toby for permission to make this design "bishounen"...

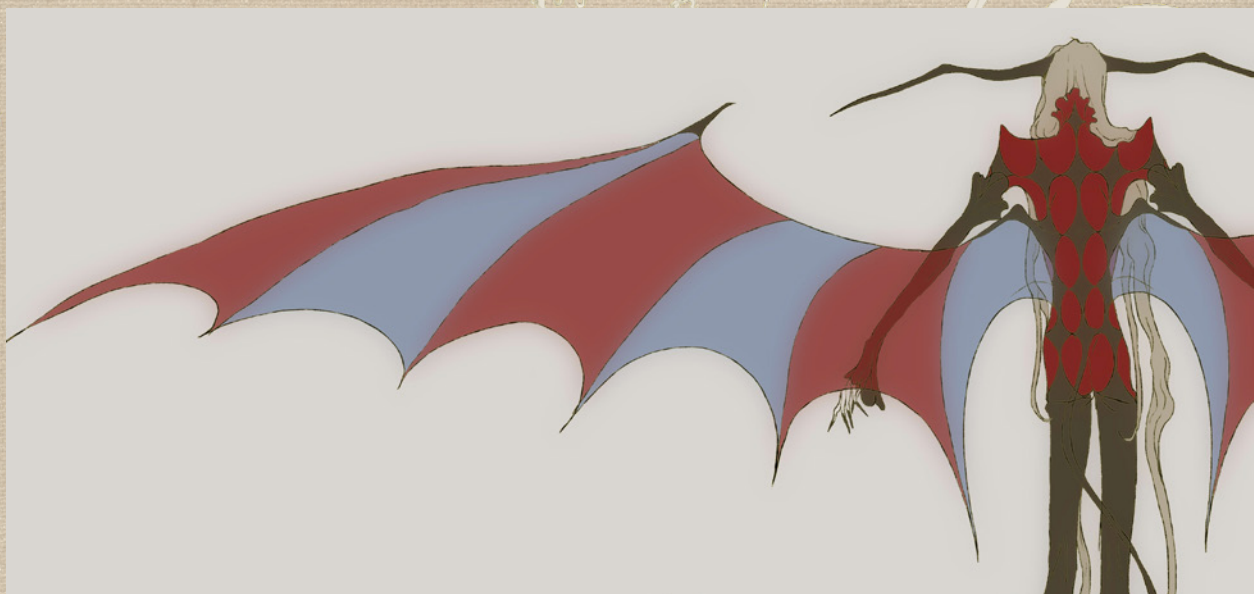
I think it all went well.

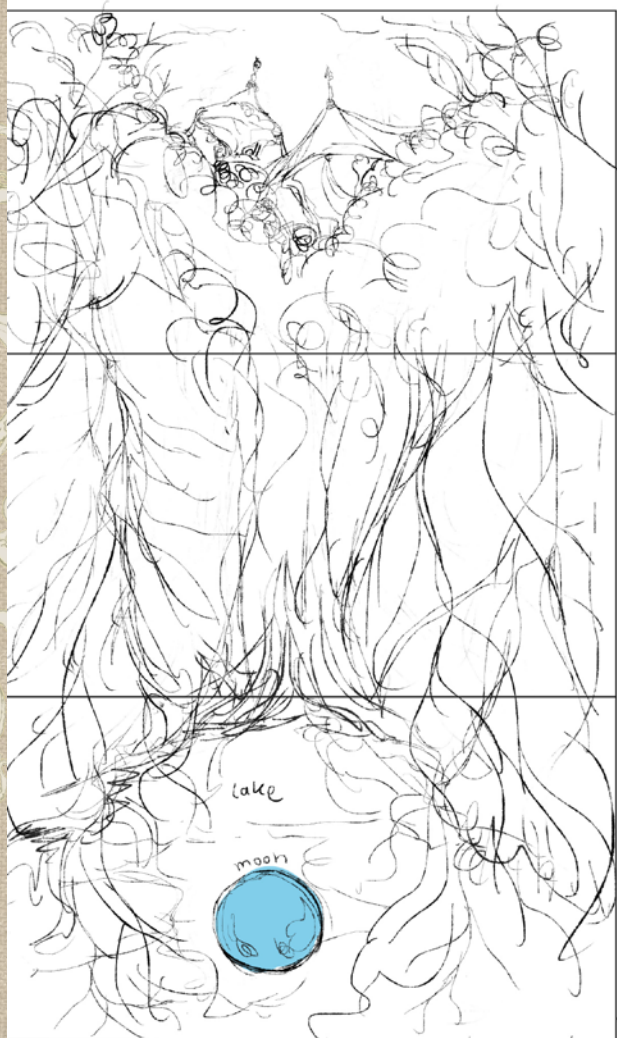




Later in the animation I gave the Ringmaster a “demonic” design. I thought of him as a seducer. When you turn into a doll, he will appear in your dreams as the devil and dance with you, so that you make a better puppet.

Or maybe he just enjoys it...





照らしだす

above the starving oaken forest in the cold

かじかむ森を

camera
up

made it a somber moon

憂う月が

青く
silent blue

← Start



there lay a carnival
with a showman's hall

そこに はるか
ひめられた

the greatest living show
never been told

誰も知らない



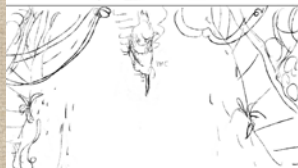
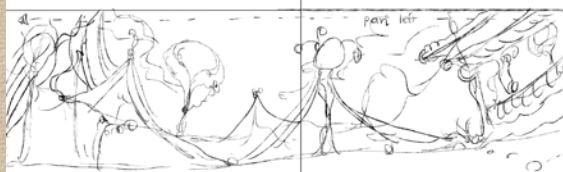
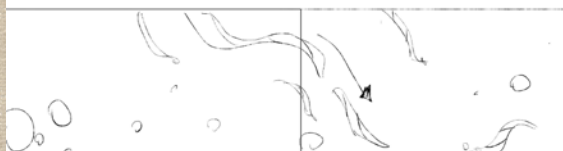
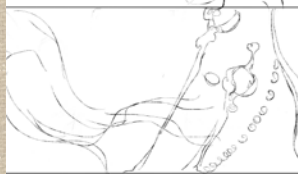
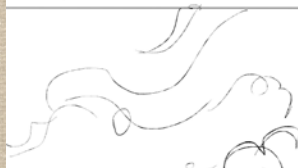
舞台が



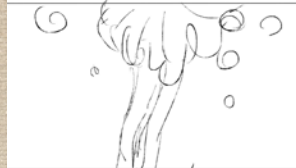
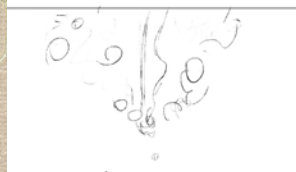
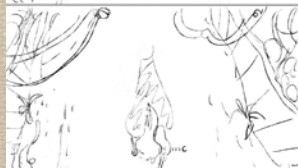
soigo
あるの



00:23



00:33



「明かり灯せ」

bring the stage alight



きらめく琥珀と影が

was the amber writing plain across the door



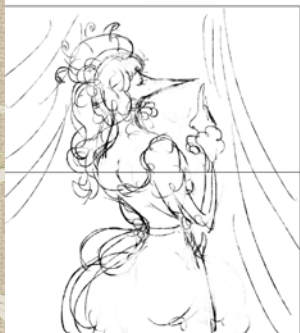
glinting bright



ドアをいきまじる夜



drawing figures from the night



bring the stage alight

「明かり灯せ」



was the opal-beaked dancers chanting plight

踊り子たちは囀る

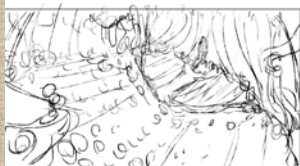


casting shadows that reek

オパールのかげぼしで



of cologne



熱狂に

braving through the sight



満ちる客席を



to the seats replete with shaking heat and fright



【Showman】(彼)は
傀儡たちと 見下ろす

twisting puppets on his throne

high he stands



let him raise his arms in night

その振り上げた



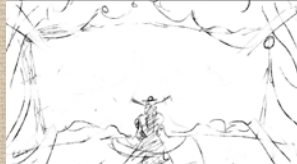
to the greatest show that's ever never known

腕に、幕が落ちたなら



falling curtains that shine

like a bone



moving
lips

さあ、ショーのはじまりだ



ライオンが吠え

soaring round above the ground



狂ったラッパが鳴く

with threads so brightly blaring





Zoom
in

わたしは恐怖に惹かれていく



mouth apart



a smile twisting



like a plaything on a string



「さあ、飛べ！」

lions roar

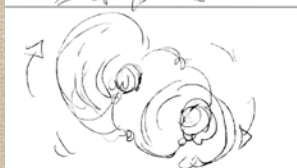


with force



「舞え！」

for what is in store



as the trumpets are bleating



「身体よじらせて

like broken violins

ねじ切れるまで踊れ！」



最高のショーが

the last curtain is calling



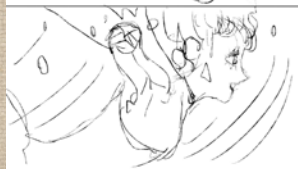
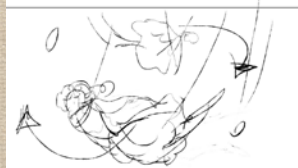
呼んでいる

for the show tonight



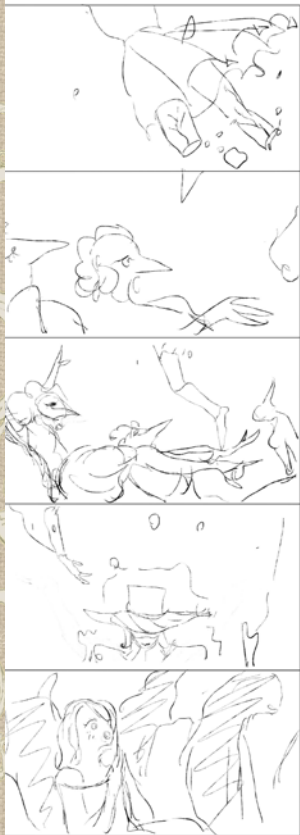
最後の章が

the last curtain is calling



呼んでいる

for the show tonight



最高のショーが...
the last curtain is calling



for it's time for all little children
to take their daily

子供たちの起きる時間まで

ちいさな幕間に
星明かりが消えたなら

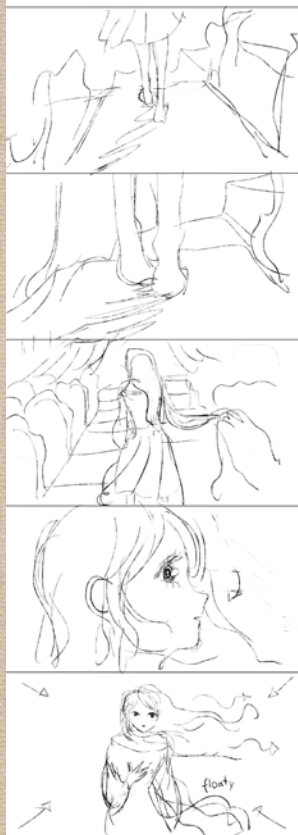
break to the lonely middle time
where the star painted dancers
take the lights off



つかれた役者たちが 列なして はける

out go the tired middle men
who retire in dirty lines

then to the ending time again
where the smoke hazy room is cold and empty
煙と くゆった つめたい舞台裏から



trotting across the middle when

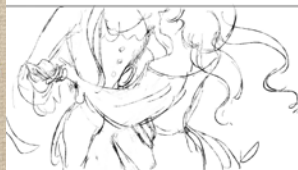
駆け出せば 鮮やかな

ひかりに 出会った

a new light colors in my mind

if I love the show
shall i waltz onstage and be a dancer in the glow

恋をして
知らない「きみ」とワルツを踊ってみたい



誰もが皆

for all to know



見とれるような

And then the watcher's eyes
Will be my glaring prize



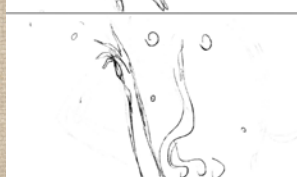
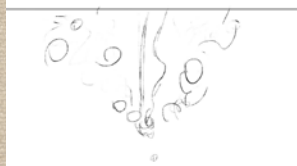
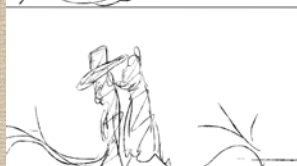
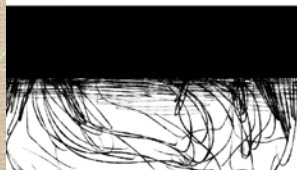
それは 最高の舞台へ…

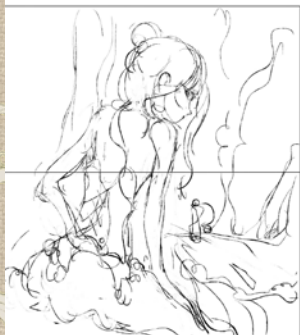
In the greatest living show
Never been told



行くの

So I go





A

「明かり灯せ」
bring the stage alight

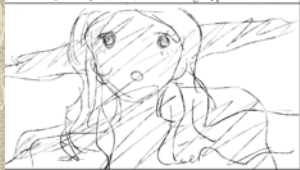


コルセットの夜間と
as i slip into the corset of the night



in the wings
when he traps me in his sight

【Showman】(彼)に囚われていた



「明かり灯せ」
"bring the stage alight"

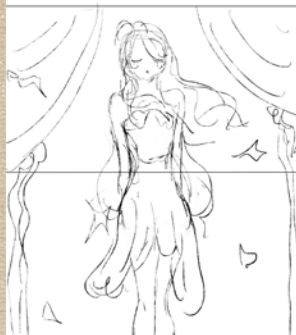
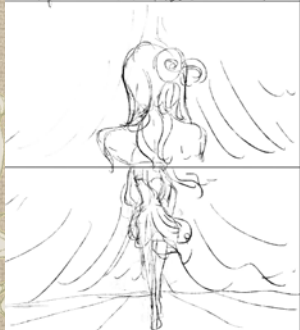
was the candied whisper
made to take my fright

あまたの囁きが ほら、



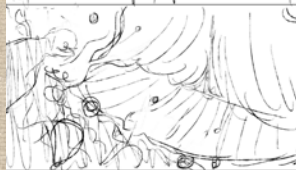
名前を呼んでいる

can't you hear them all calling your name



「明かり灯せ」

bring the stage alight

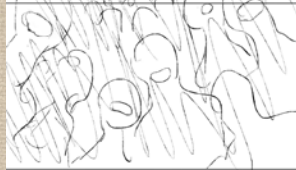


スパンコールのドレスと

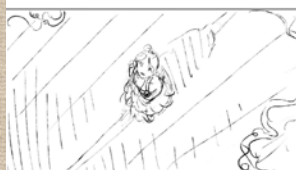
with a sequined dress to draw my breath
in white



上がる息は まばゆく
cheers the crowd



screaming black into the light

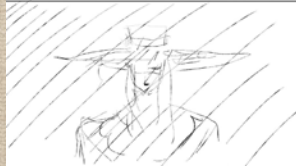


けれども、どうだ
bring the stage alight



わたしの演技は、どこか

but the poems I've been praying
don't seem right



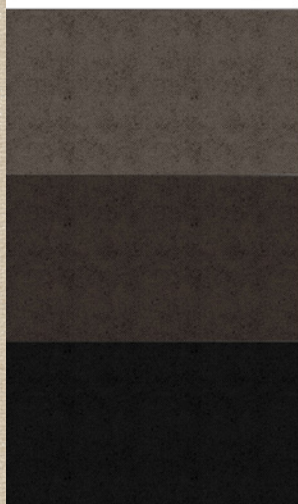


「正しく」ないようだ —

falling curtains that shine



on a doll

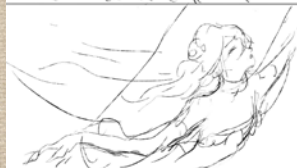


dong



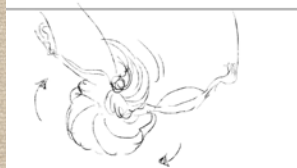
仮面の男が

soaring round above the ground



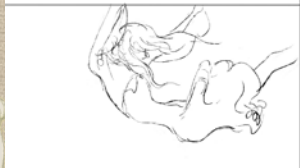
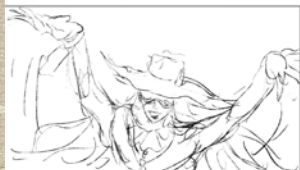
グラスを手を笑う

with threads so tight they tear me

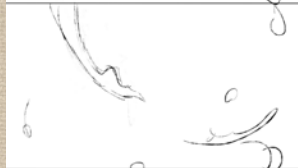
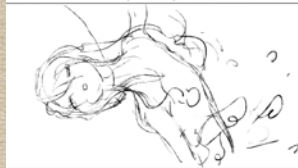


FLY!

「「さあ、飛べ！」」



「「舞え！」」

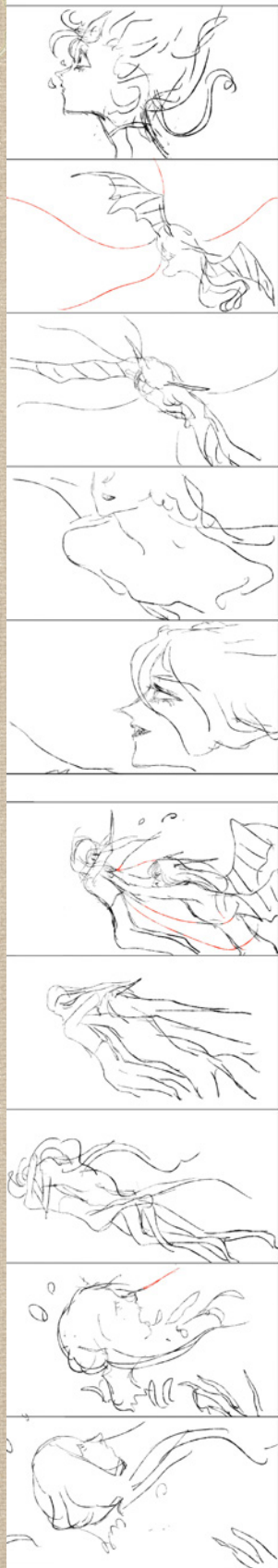
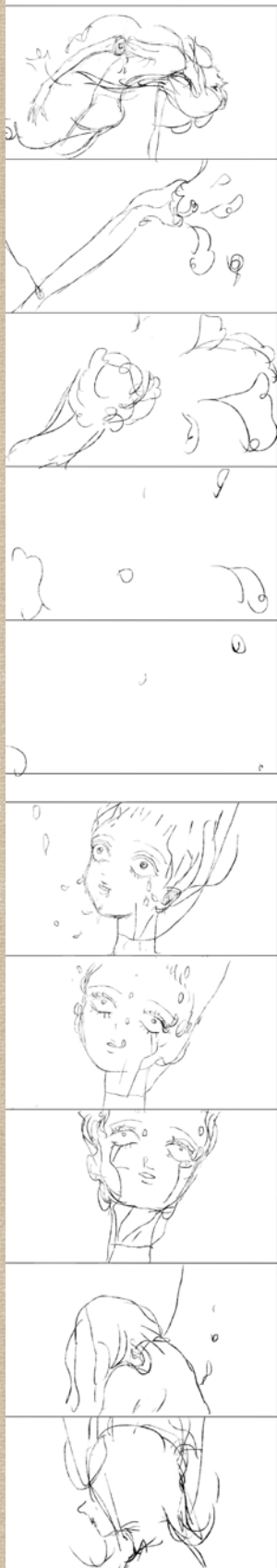


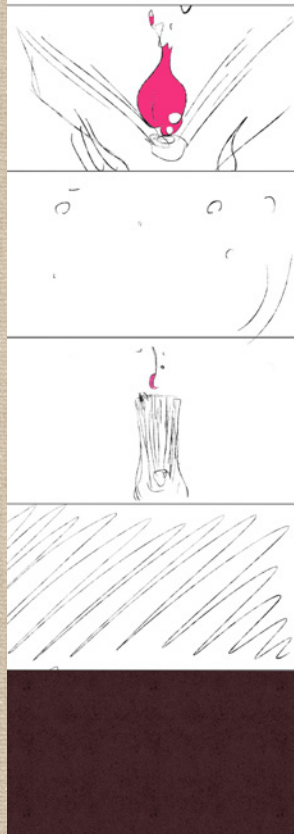
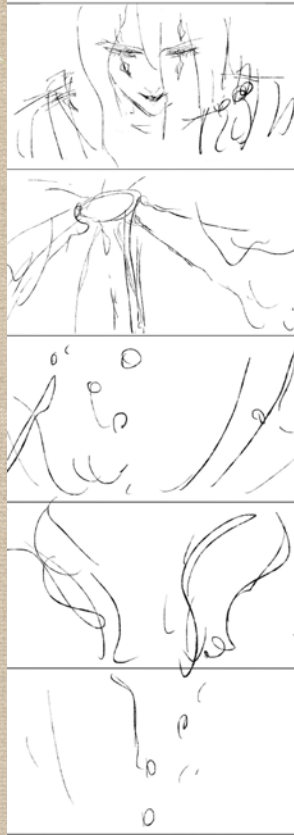
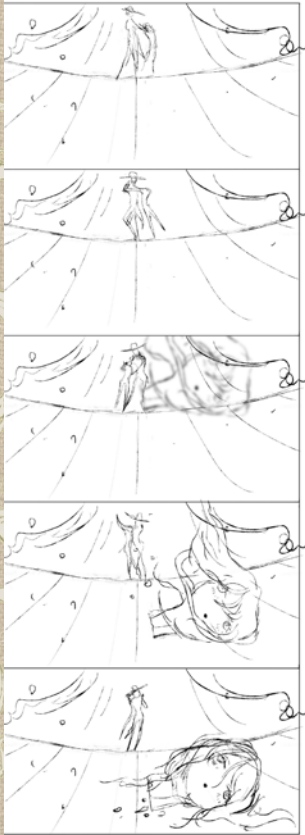
04:07

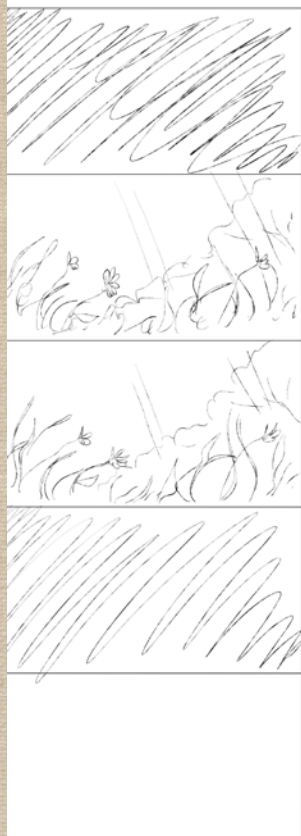


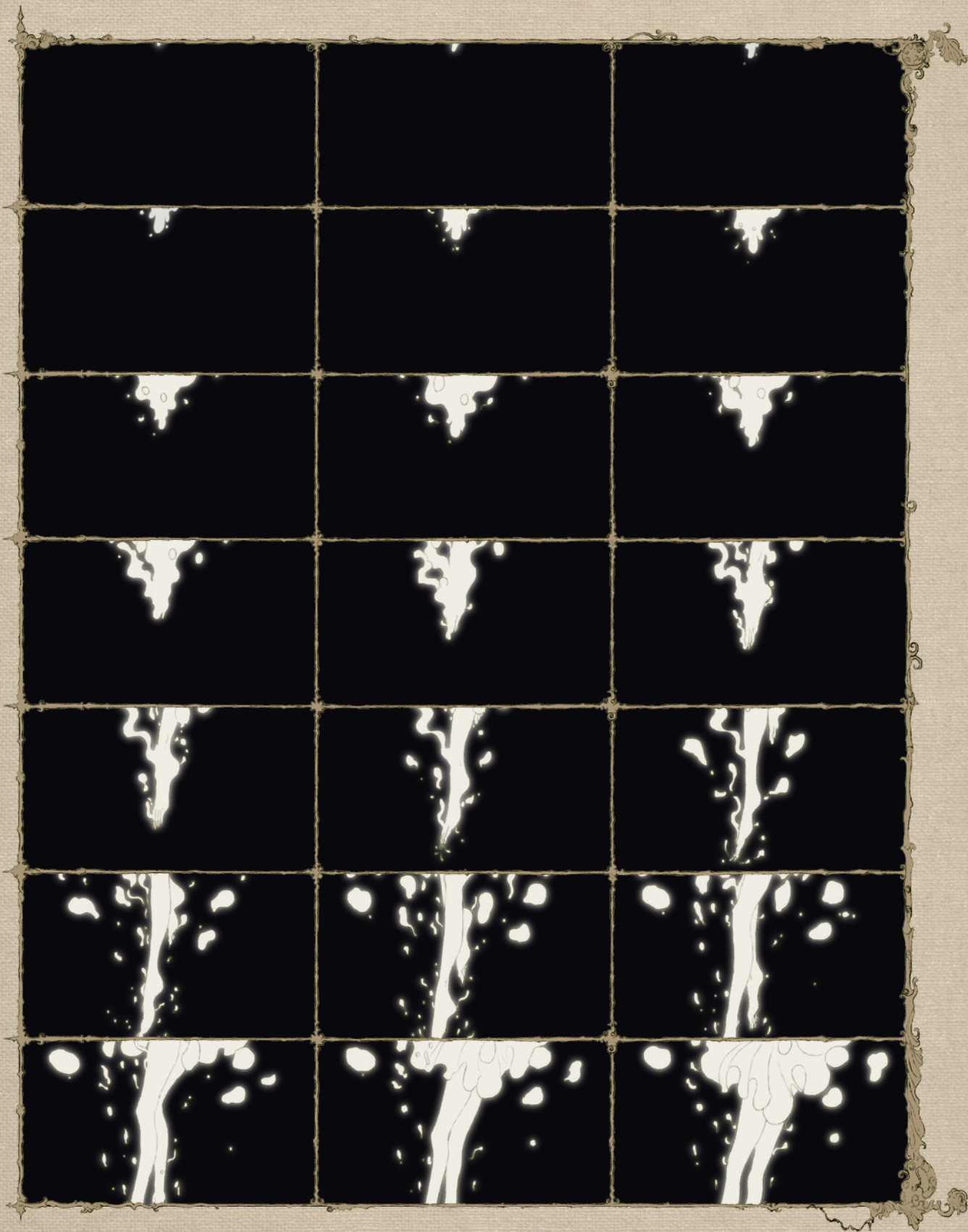
loop

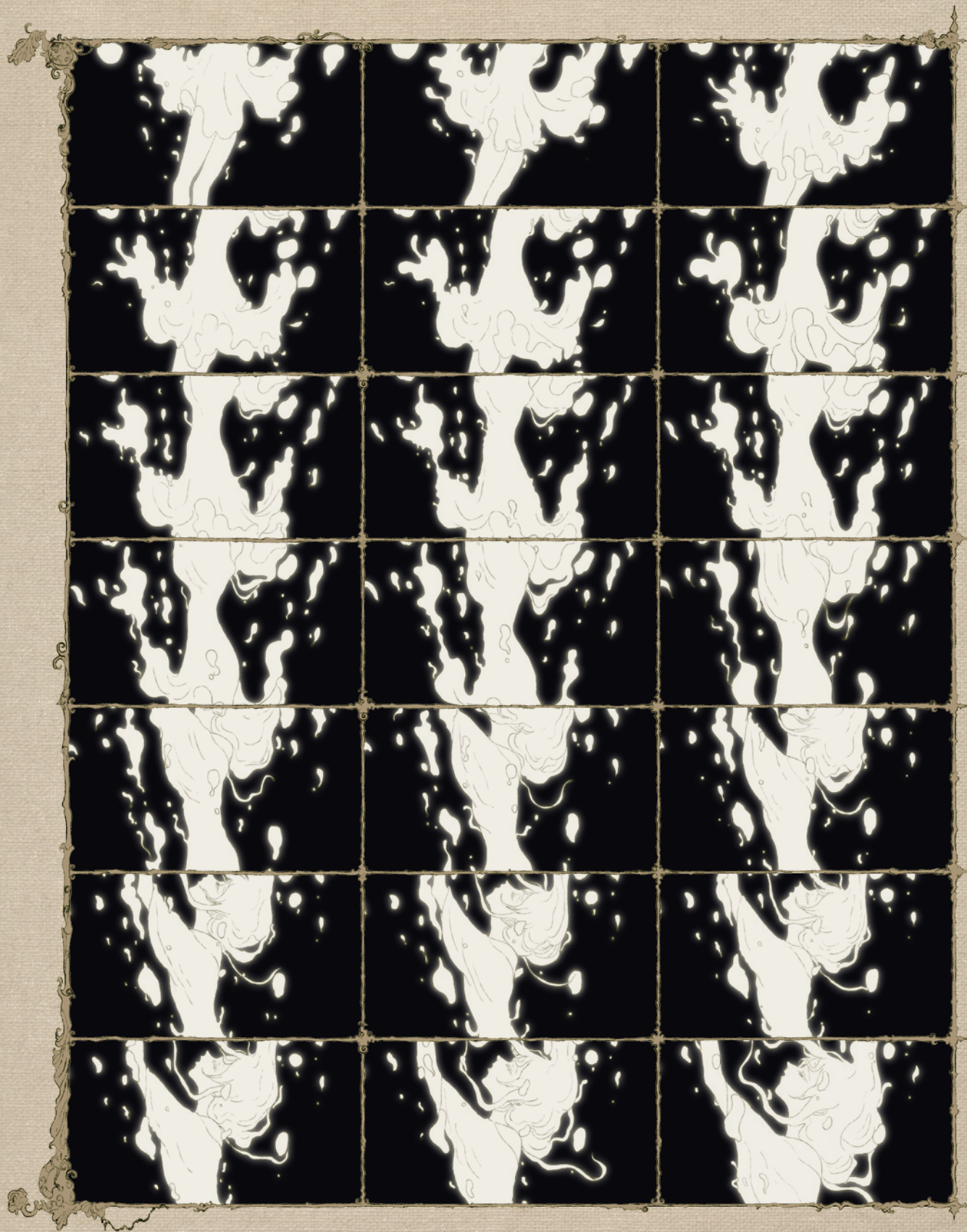








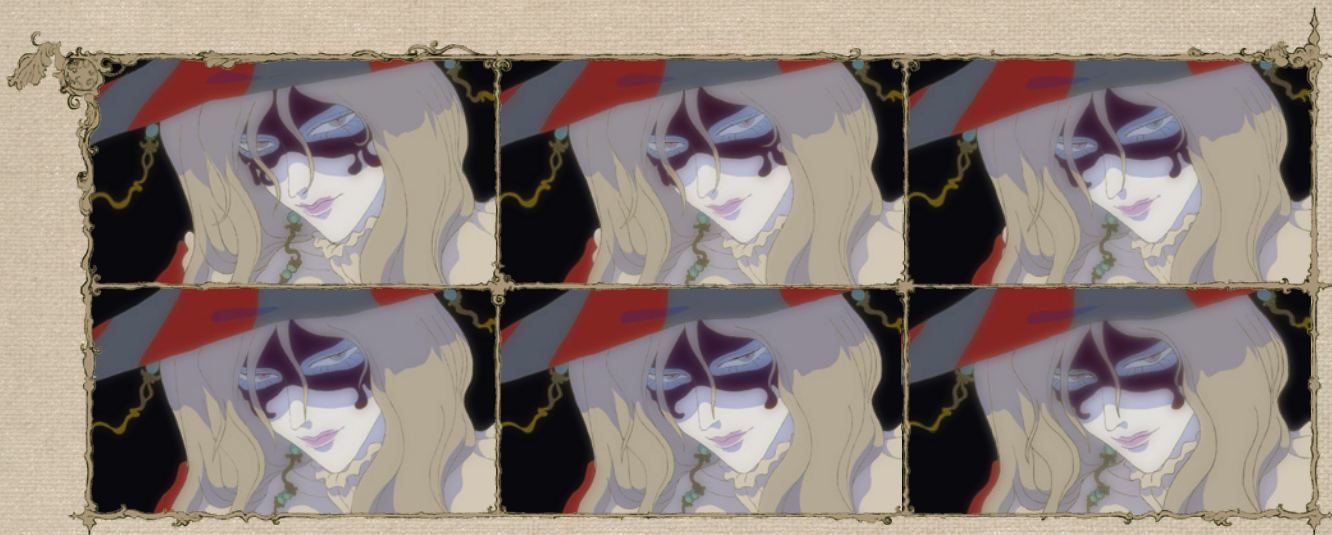


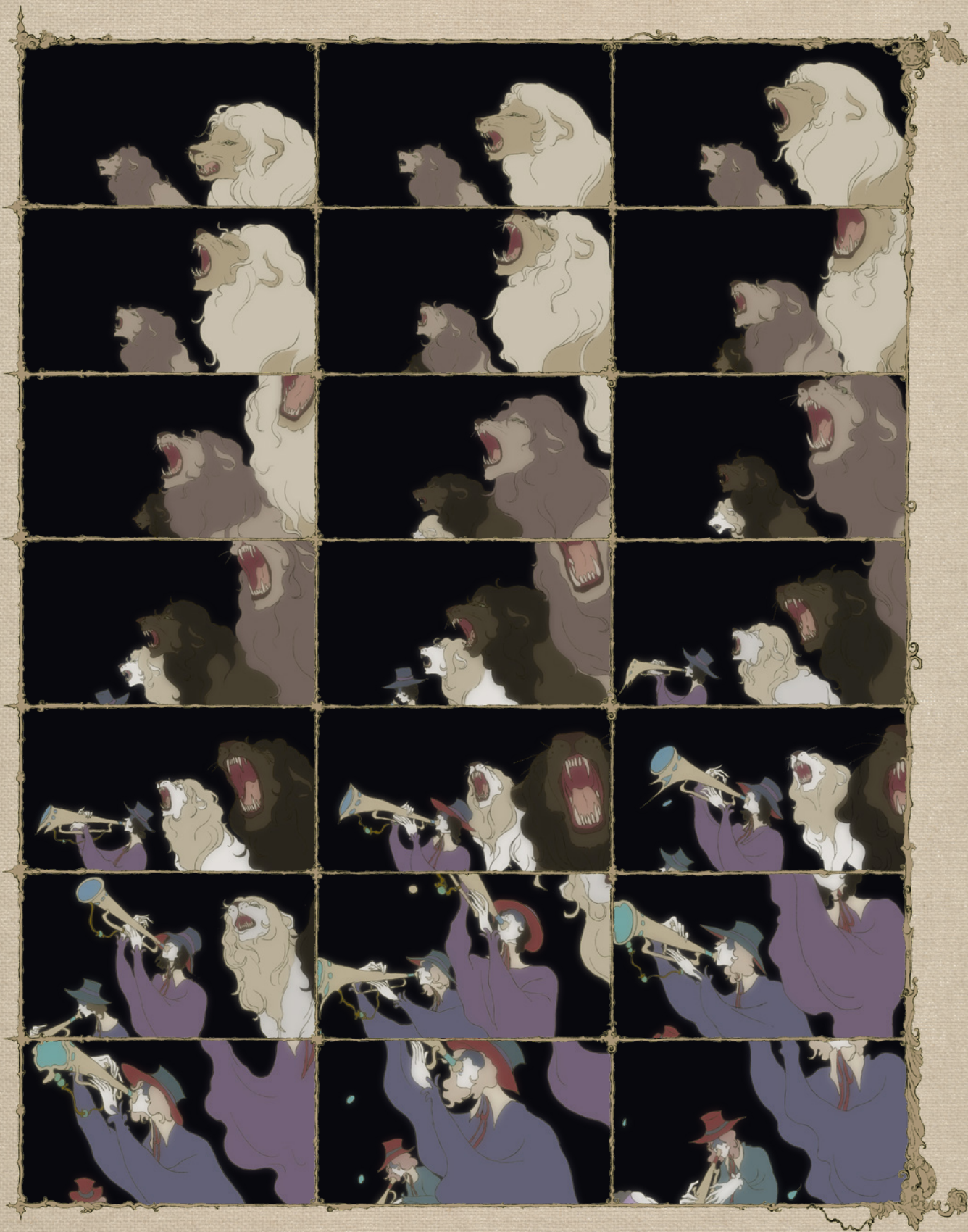




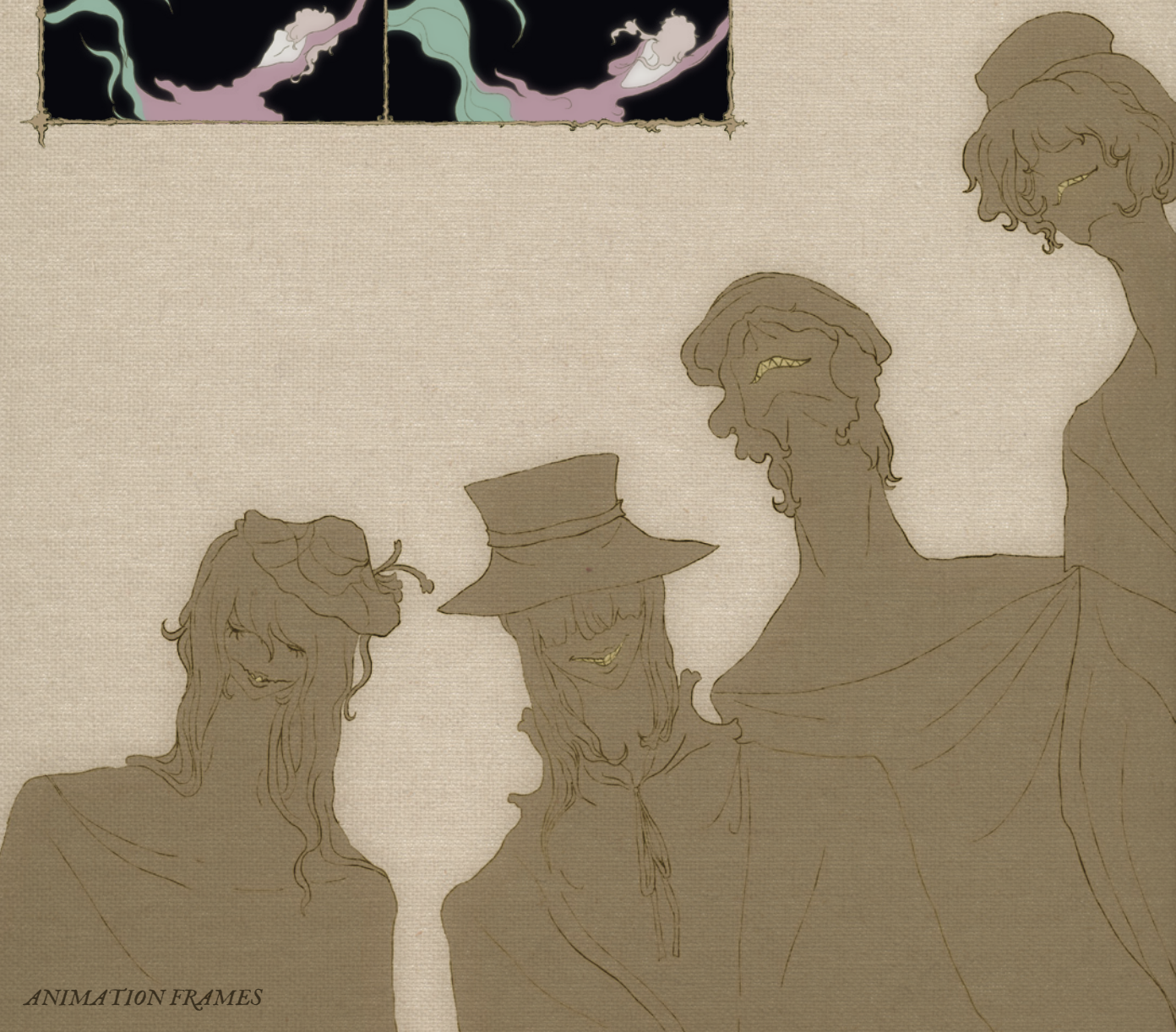






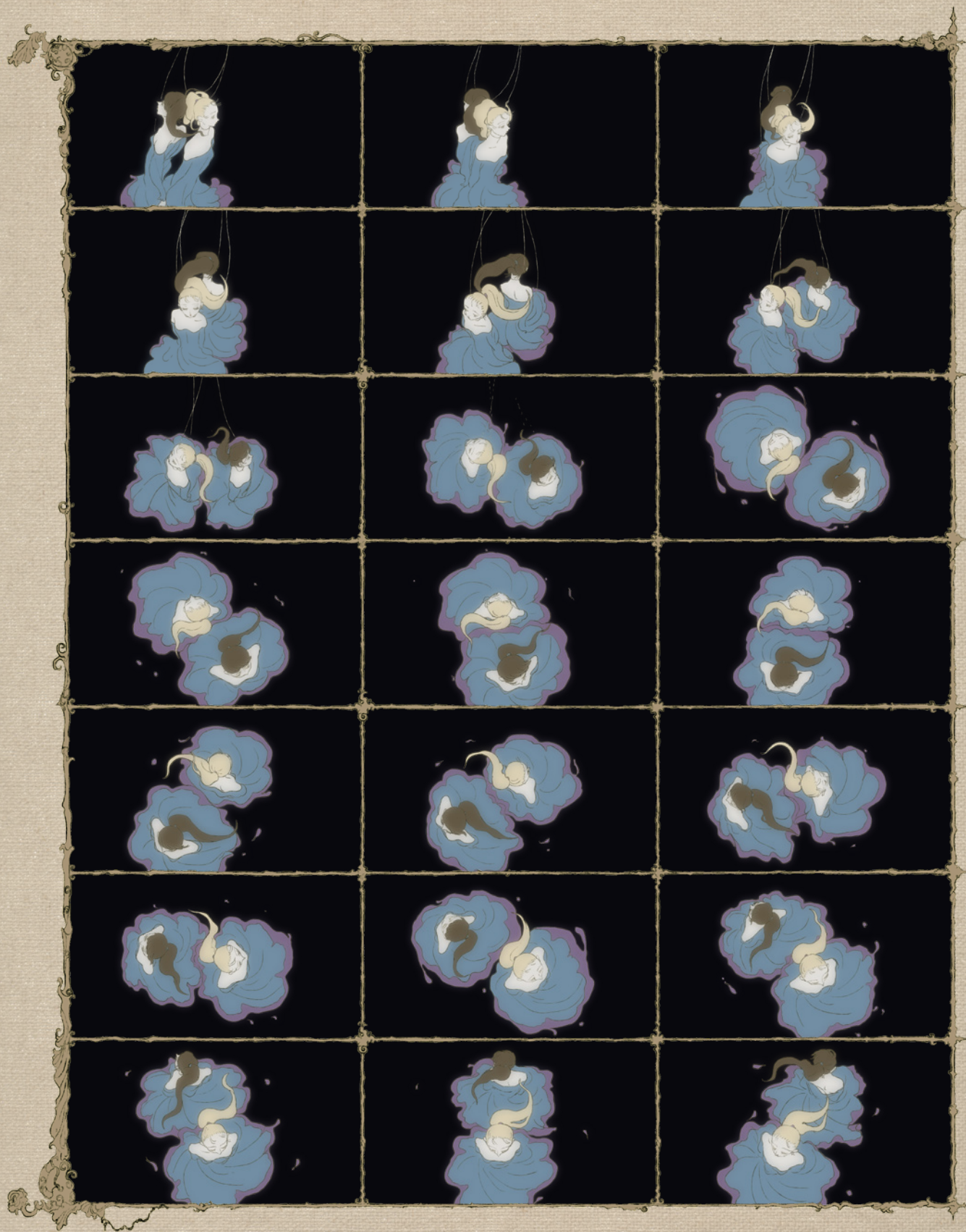








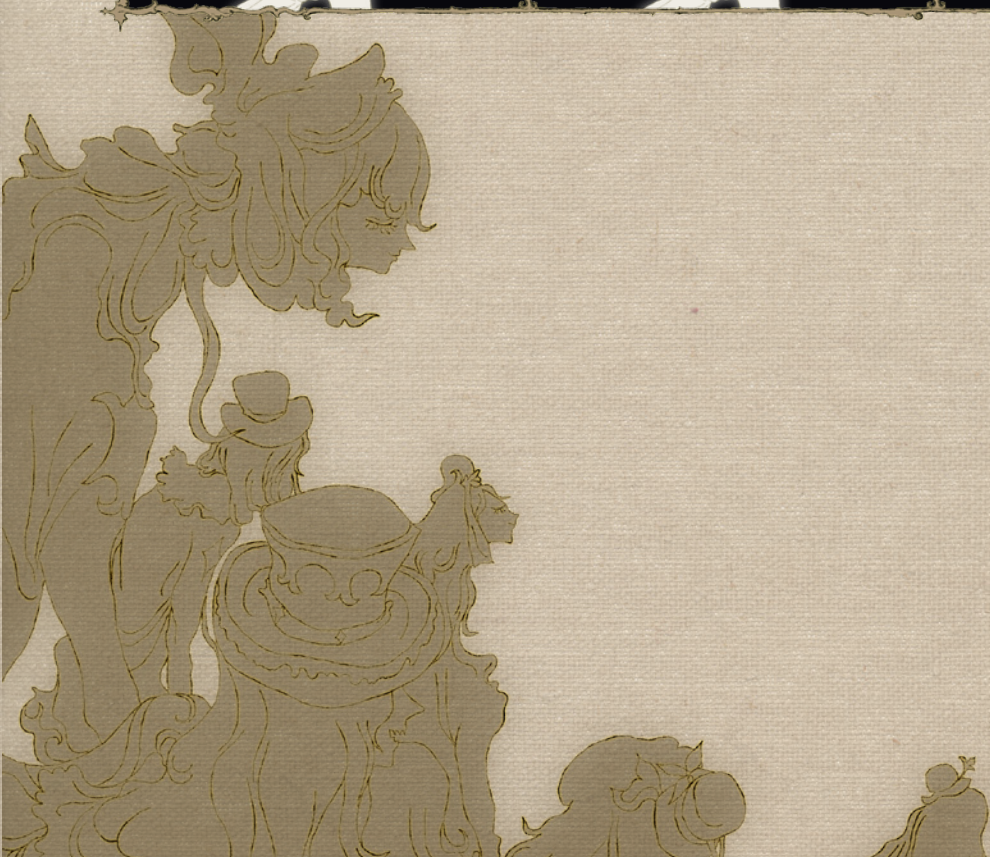






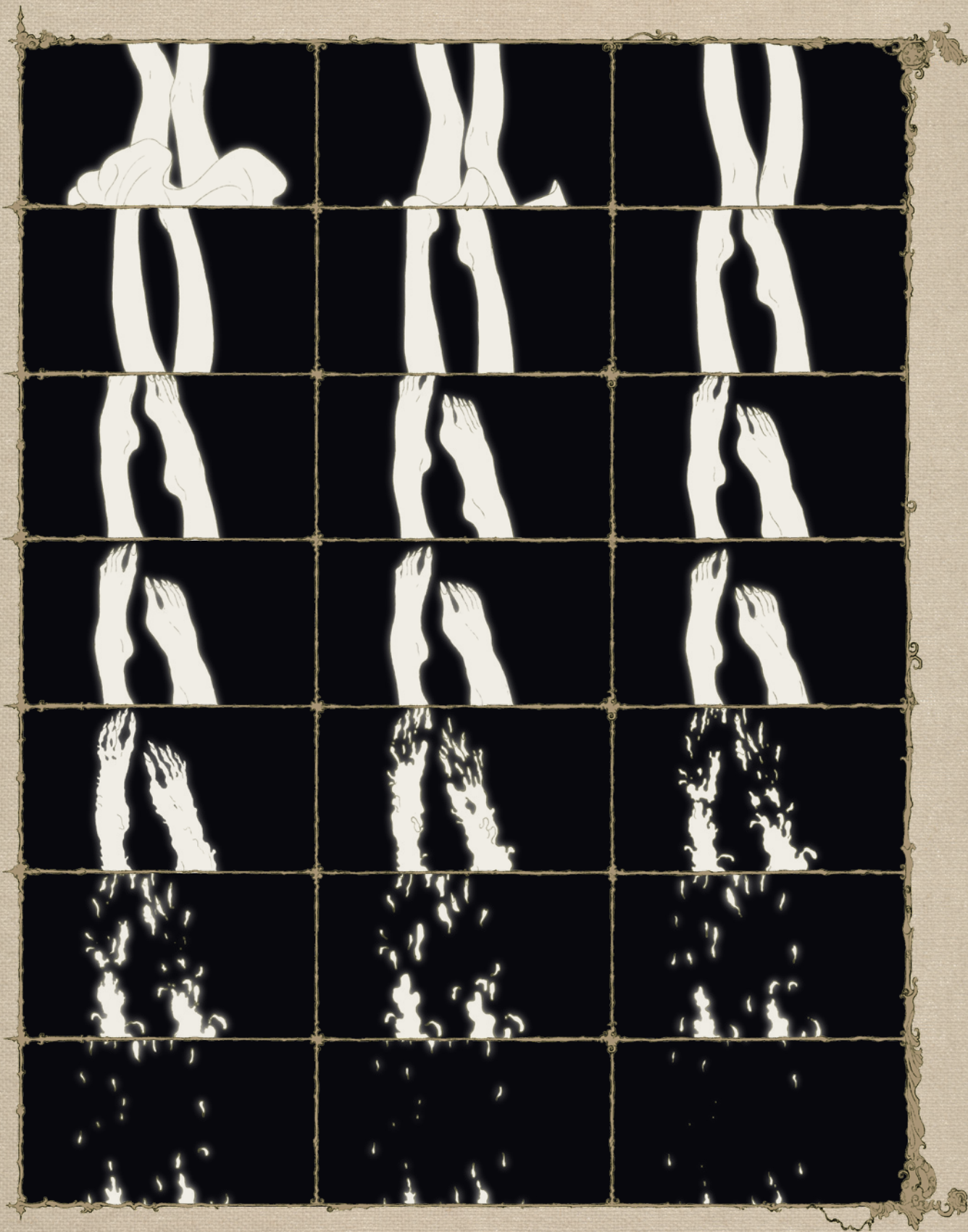






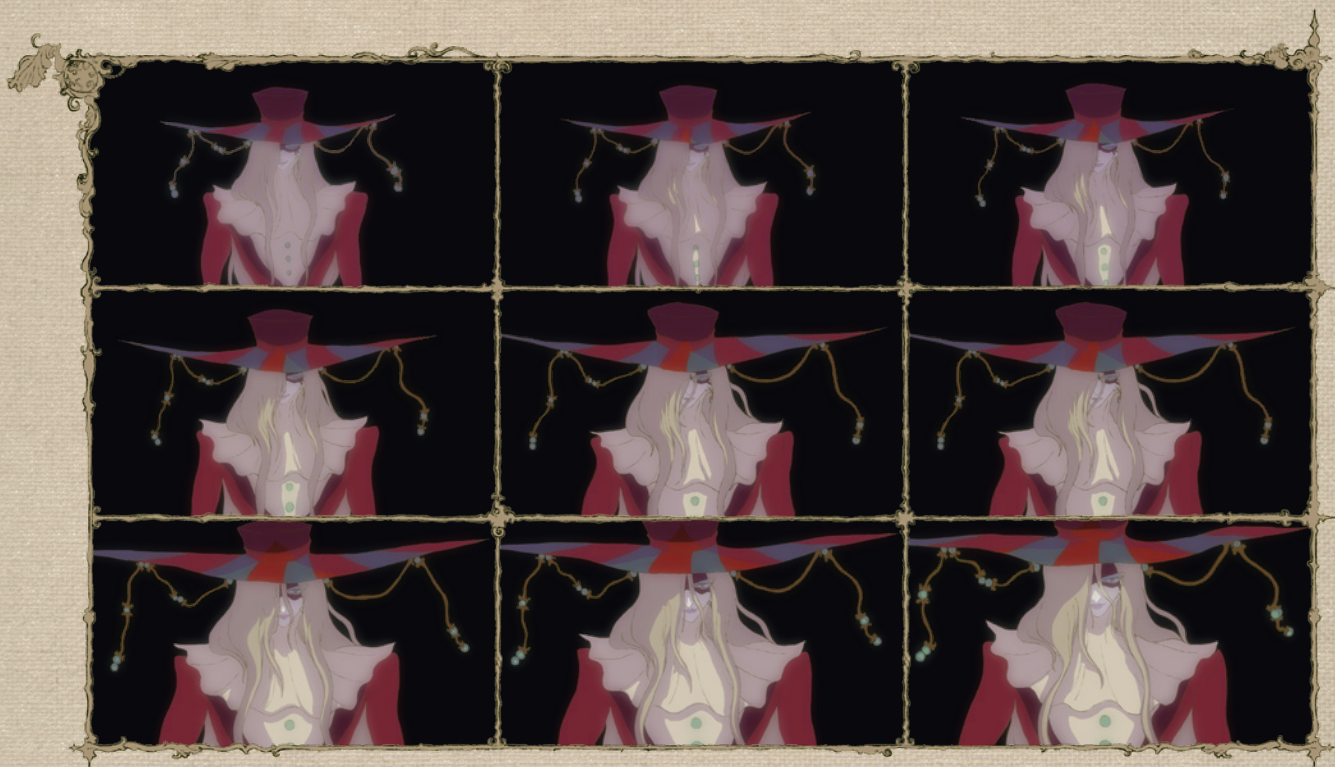












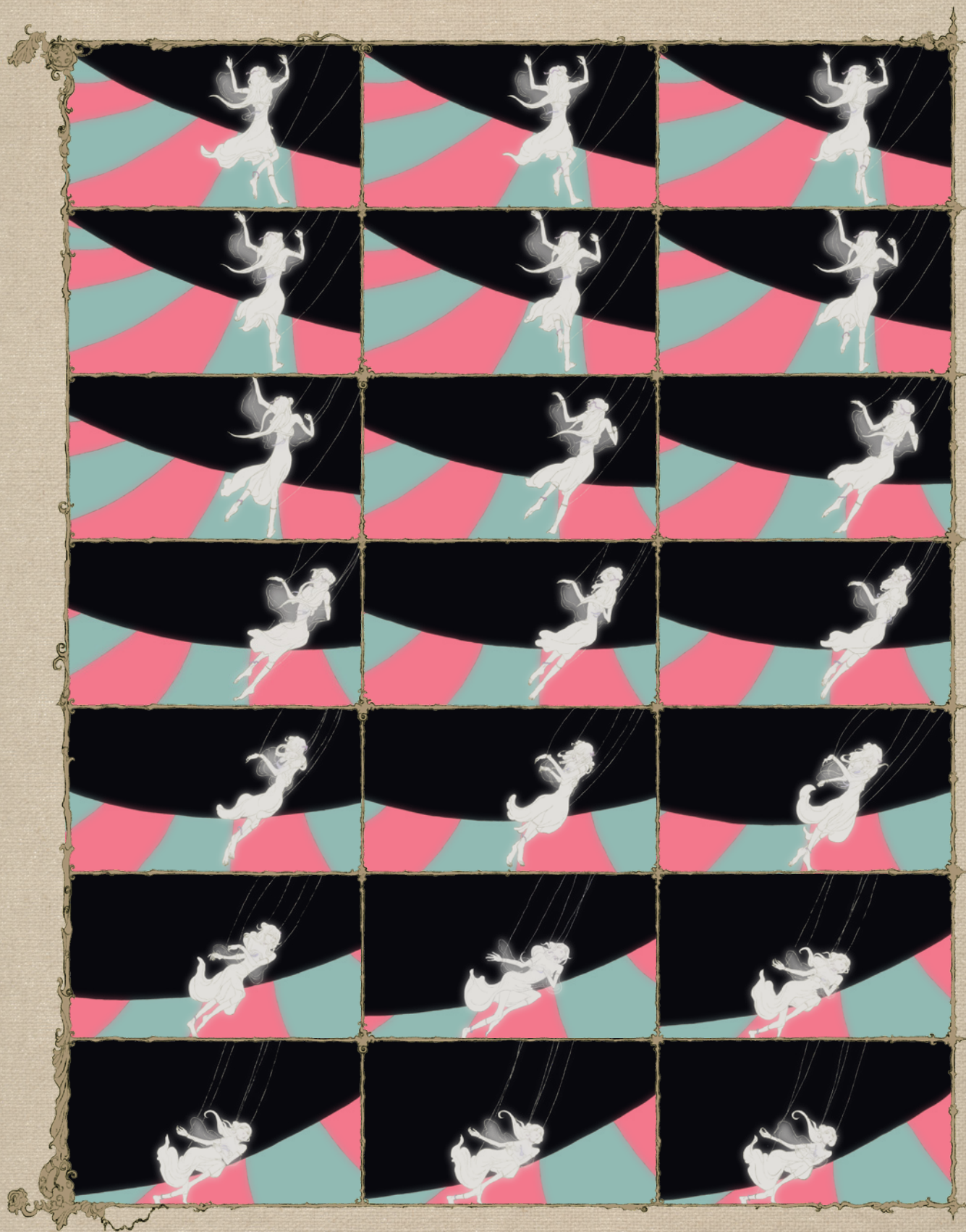
*Overall, a few frames that are included in this book could not make it into the final video.
The reason for that is, that in fact, I am rather... bad at math.*

Most parts are in 8 frames per second, especially at the beginning.

For each scene I always estimated the seconds with a window of 8 to 12 frames, since I had to adjust the timing for the animation to fit the song.

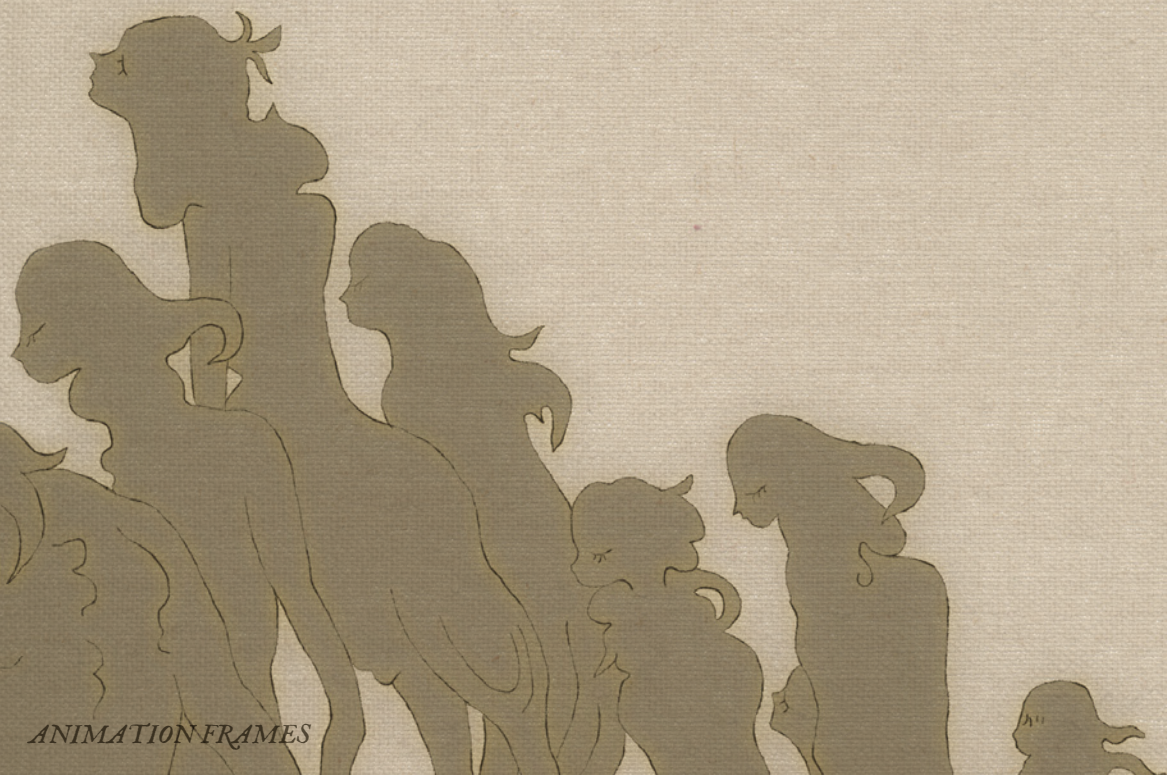
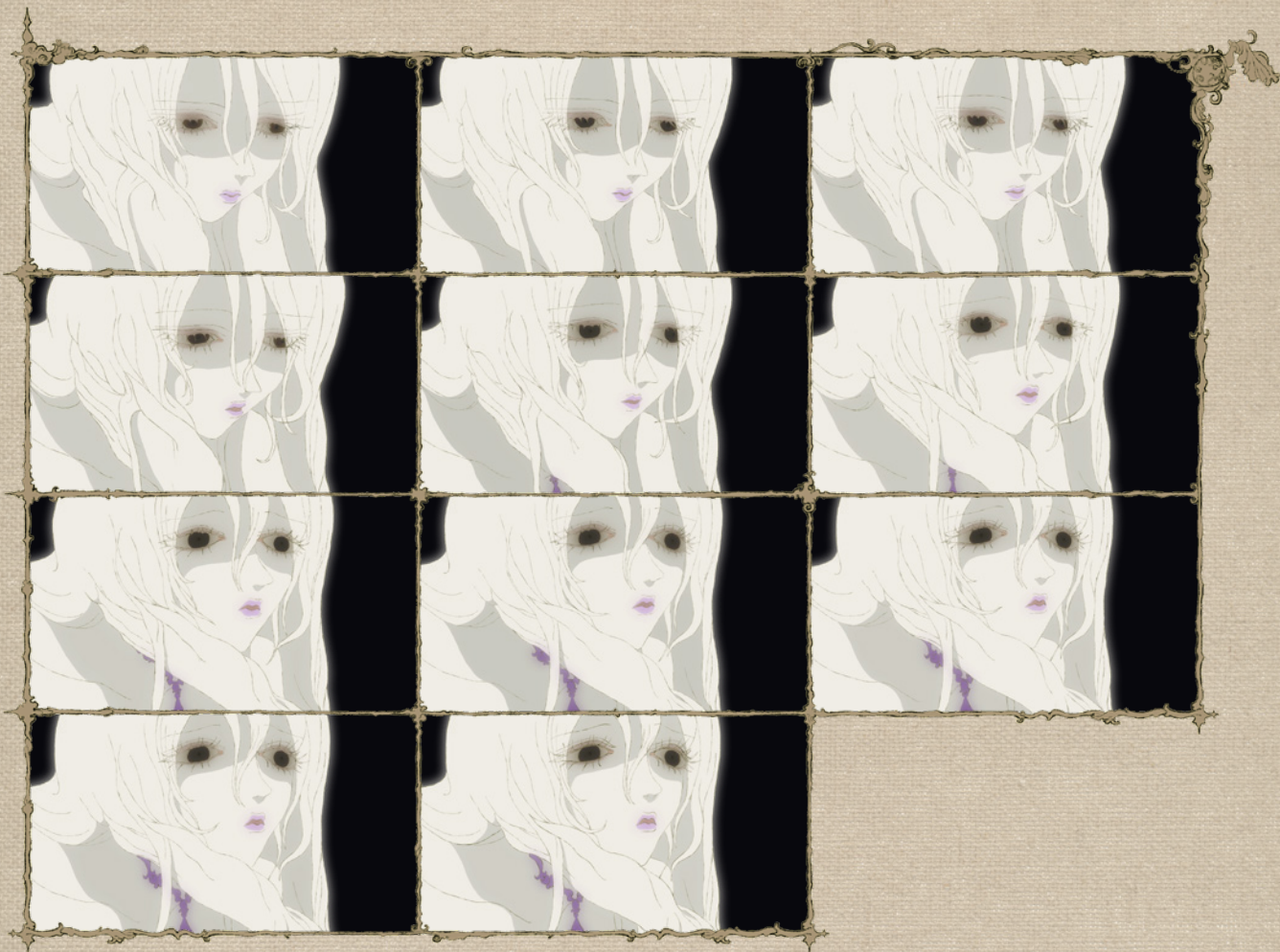
But I really got carried away in drawing a lot of inbetweens without checking if they fit, haha.











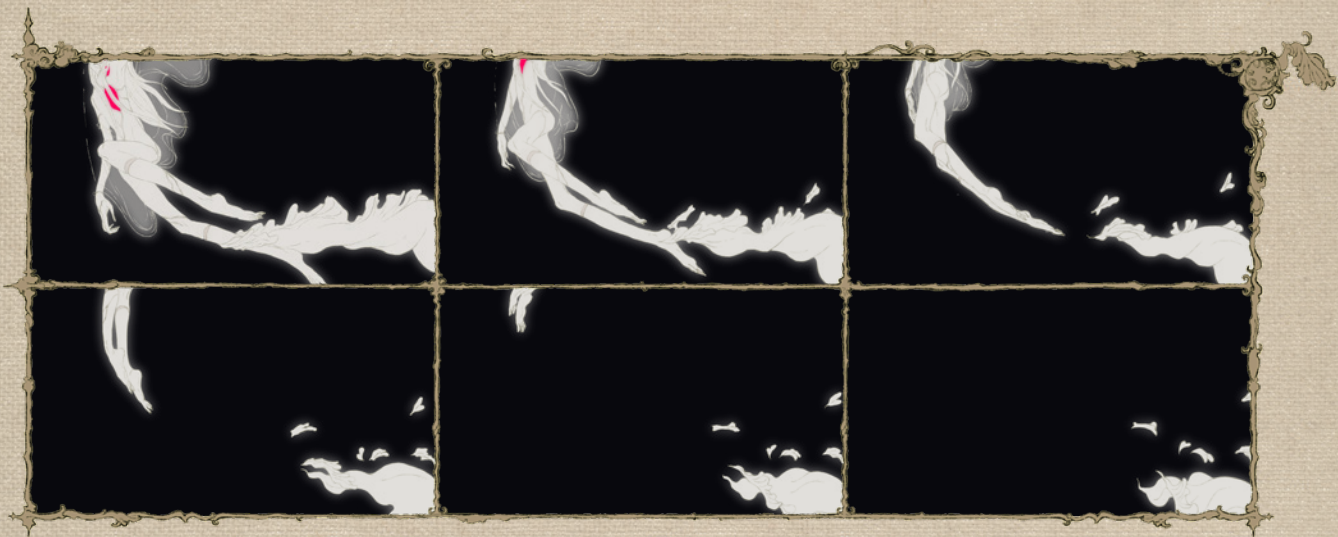












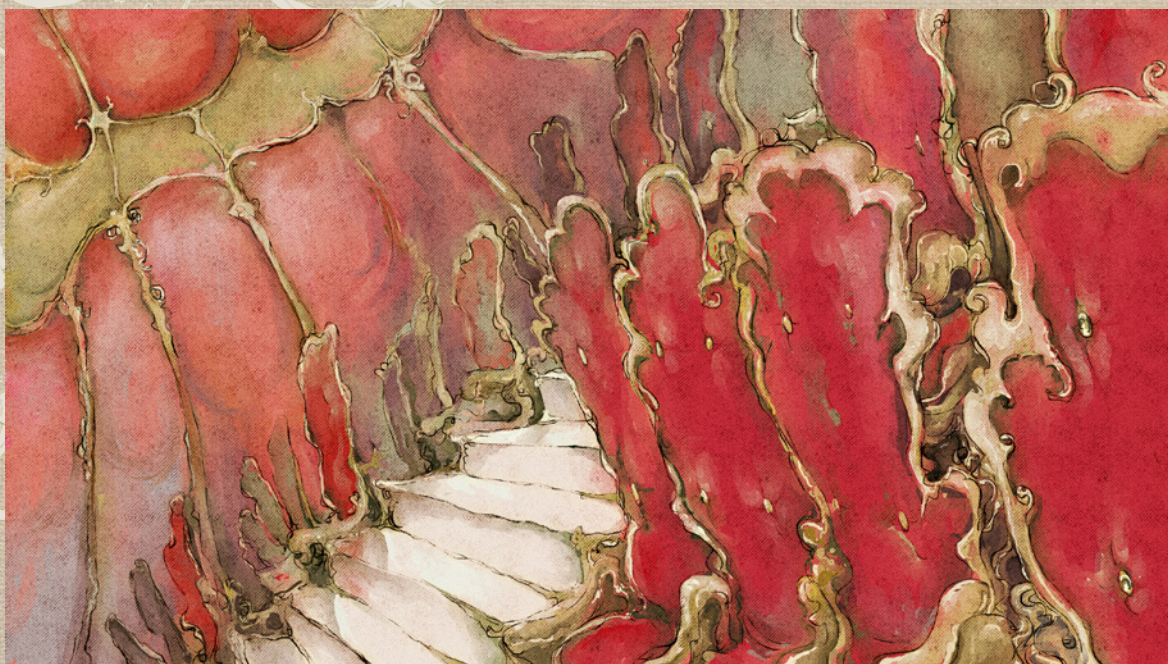


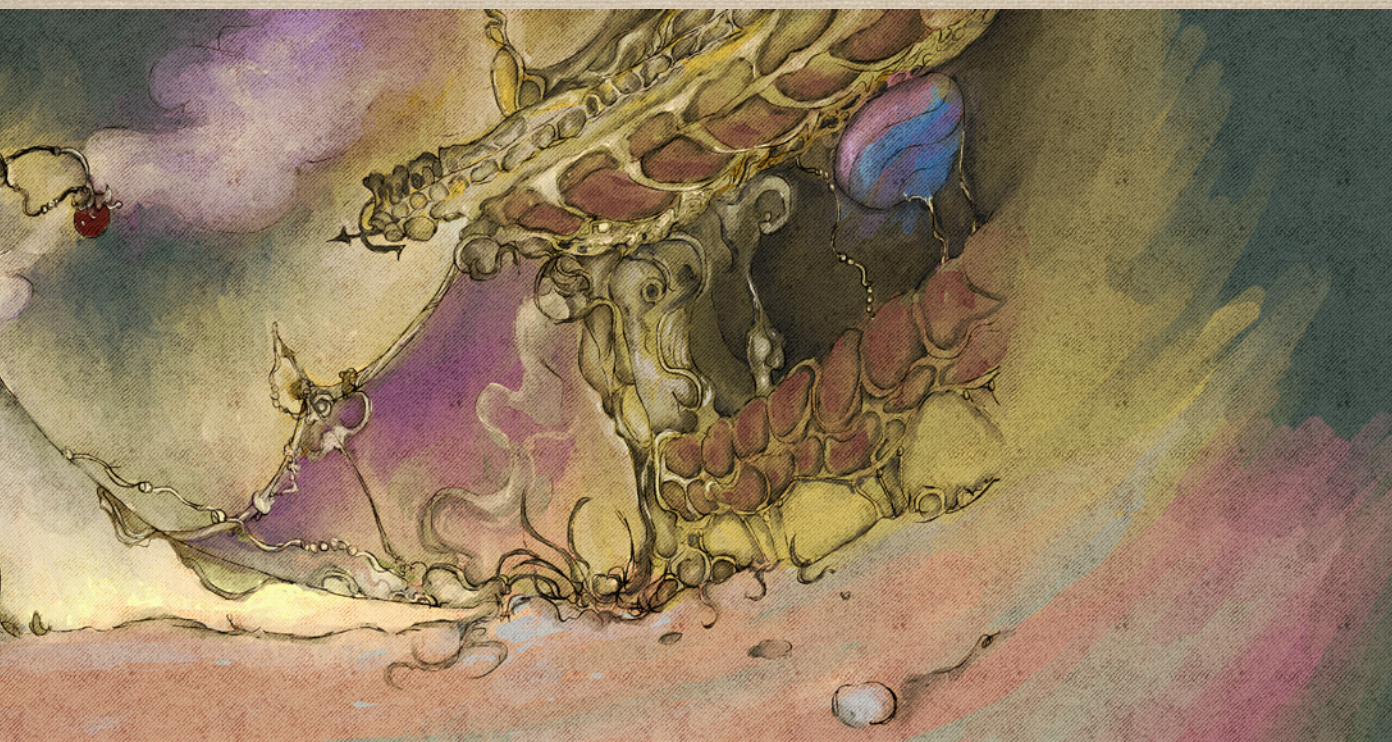


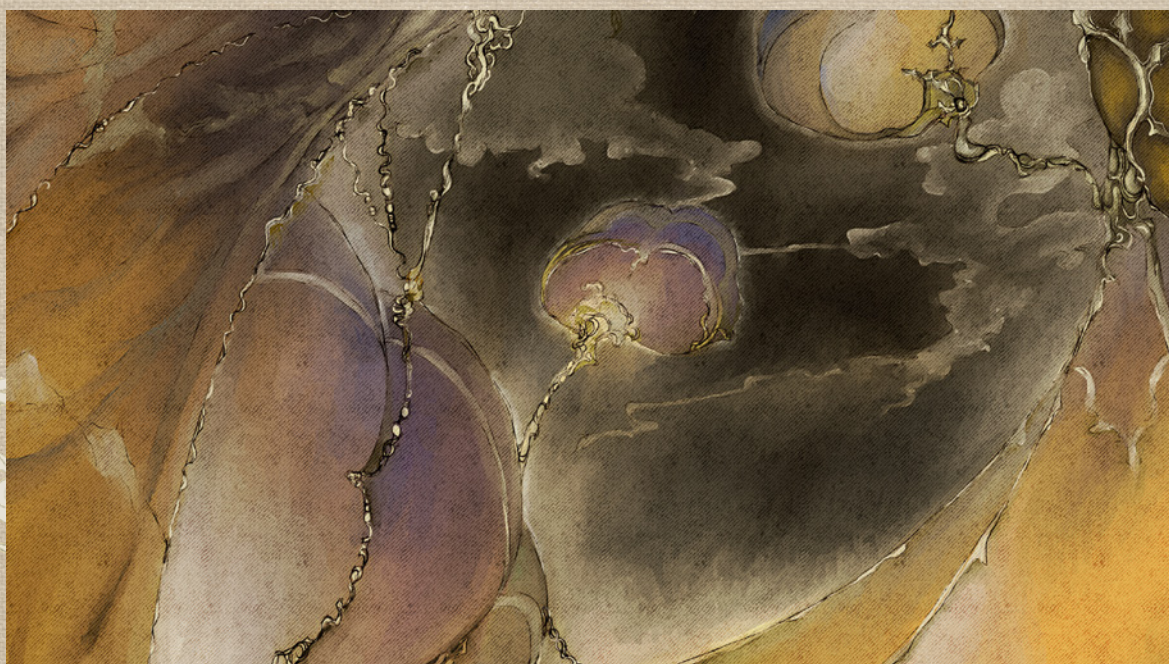


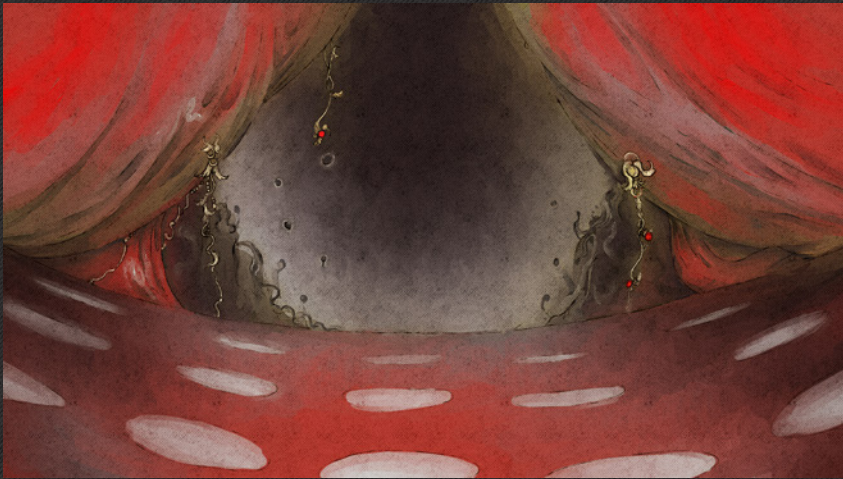
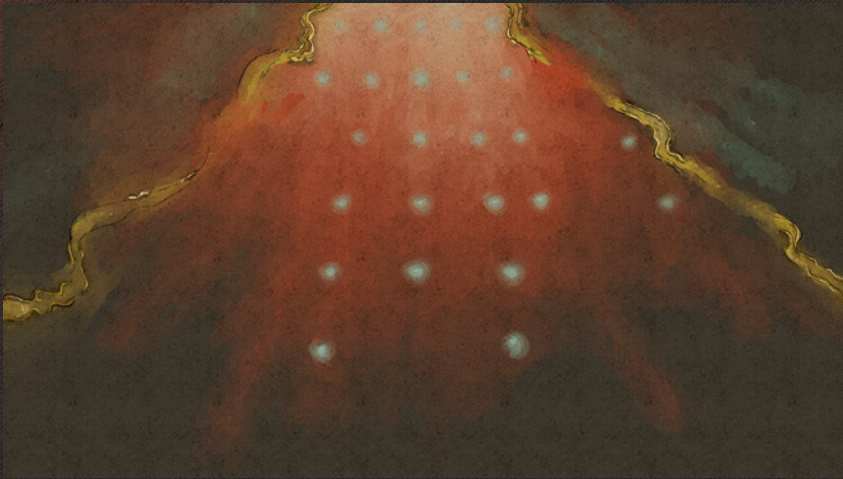
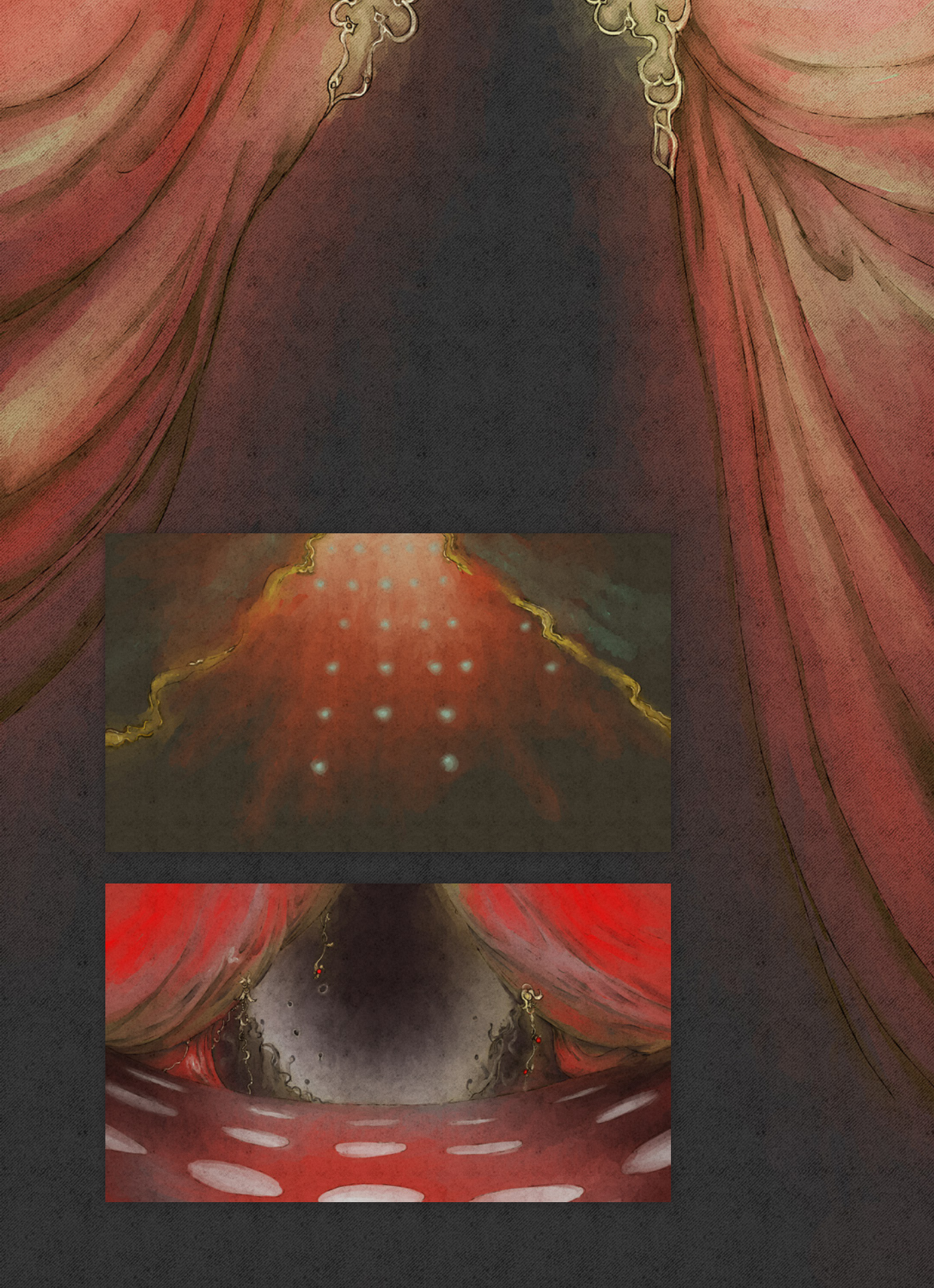




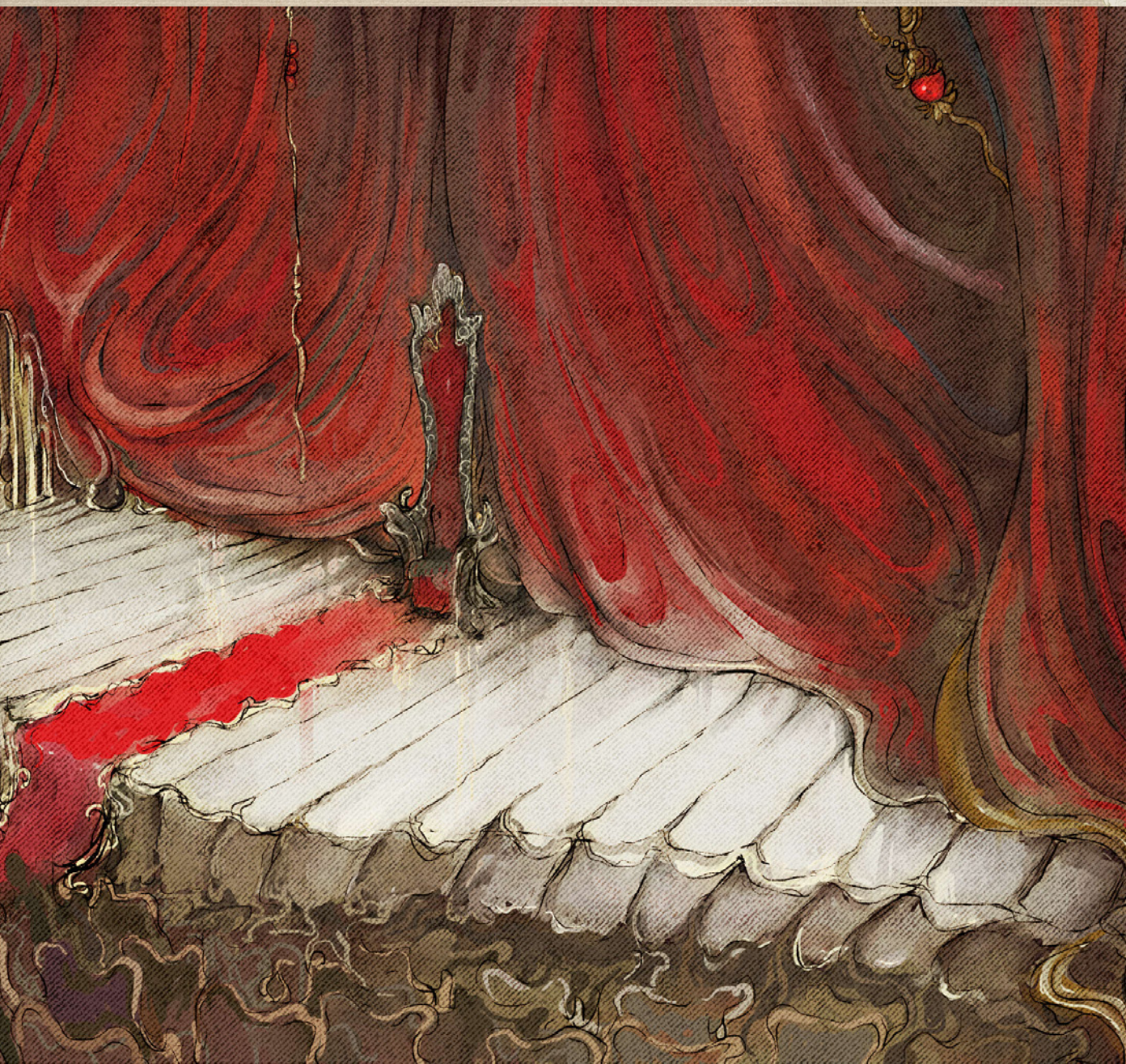


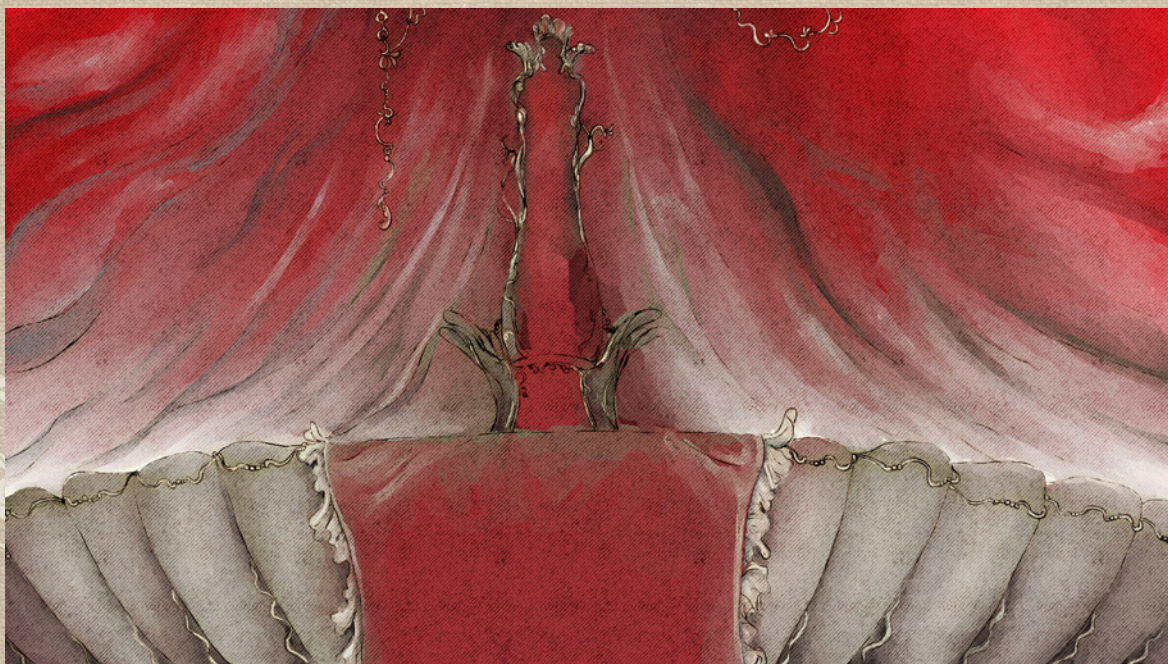
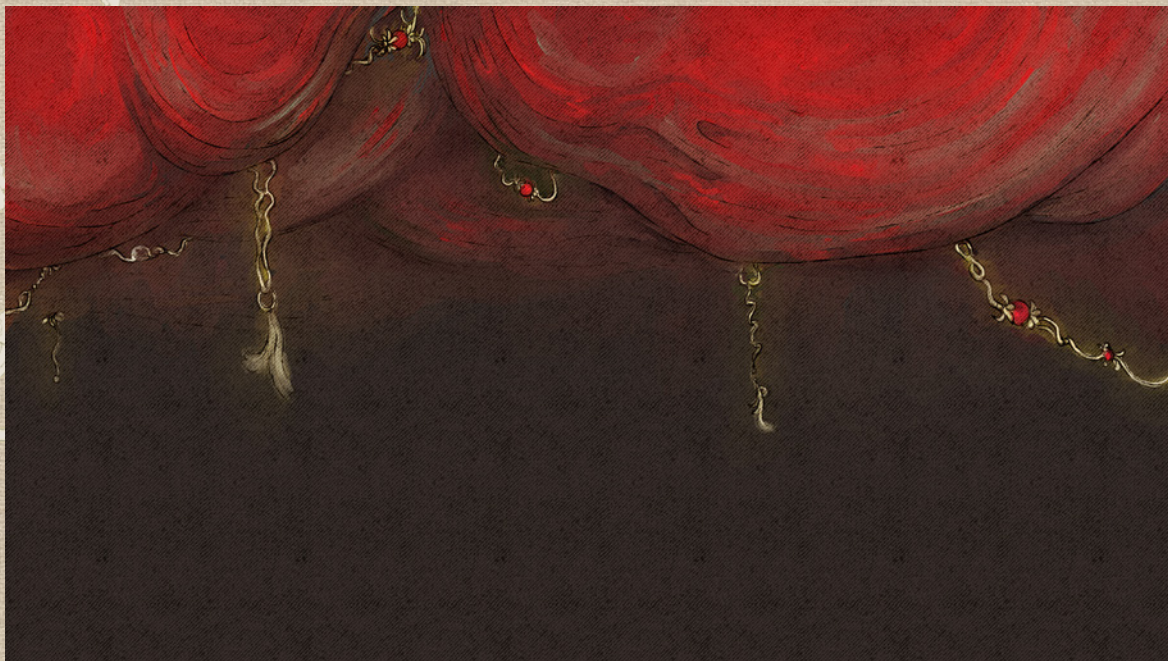




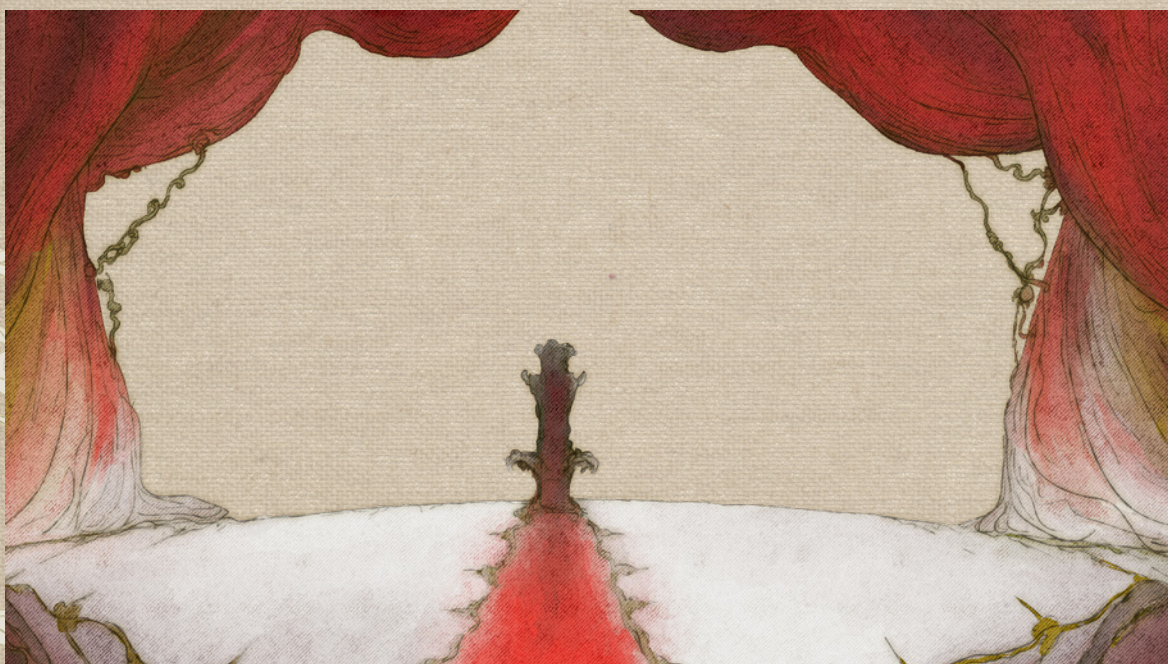
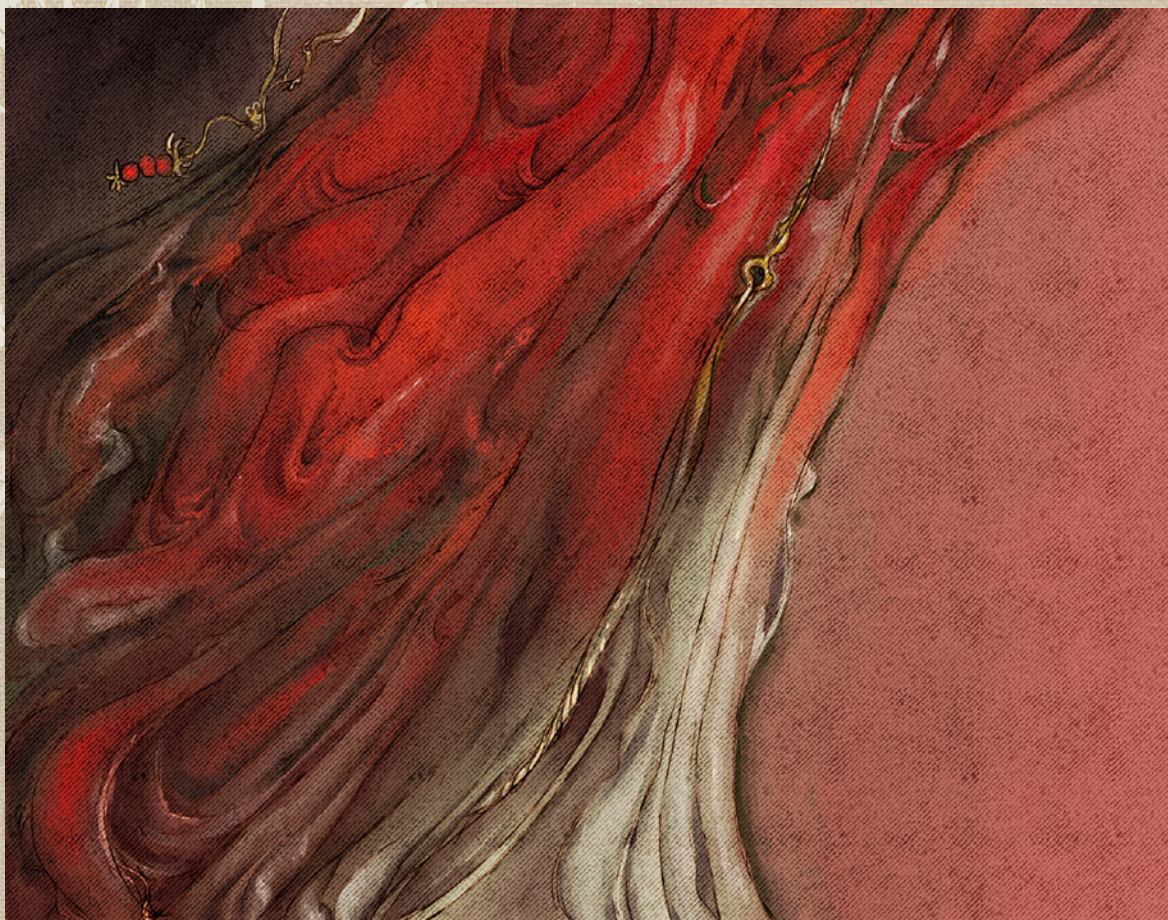


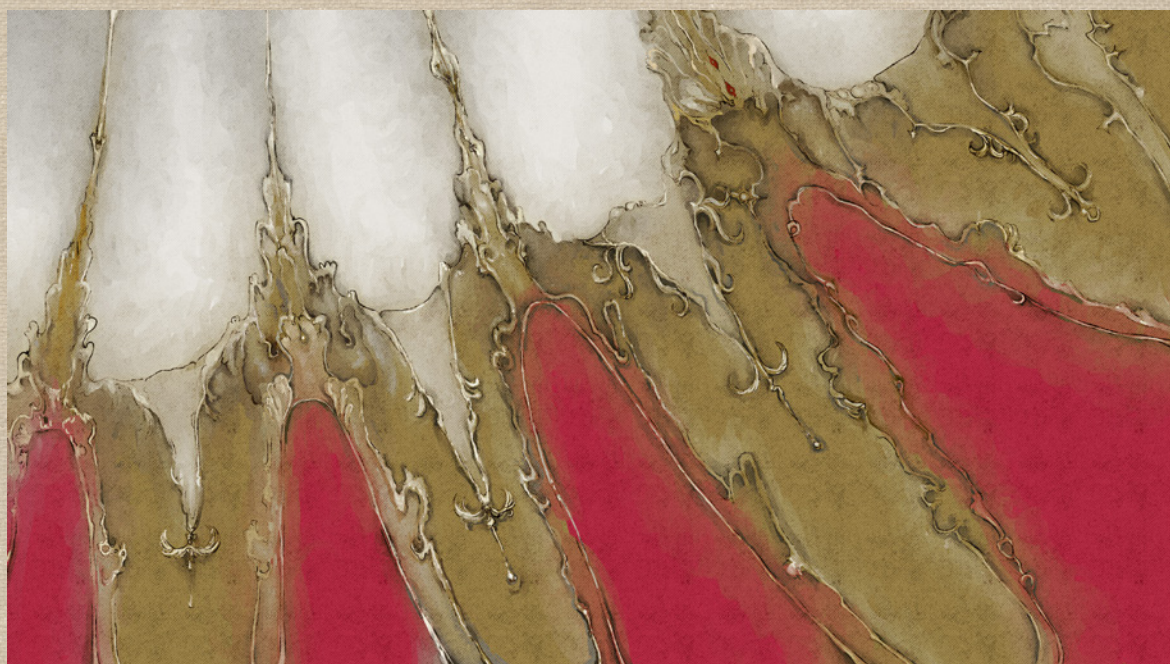






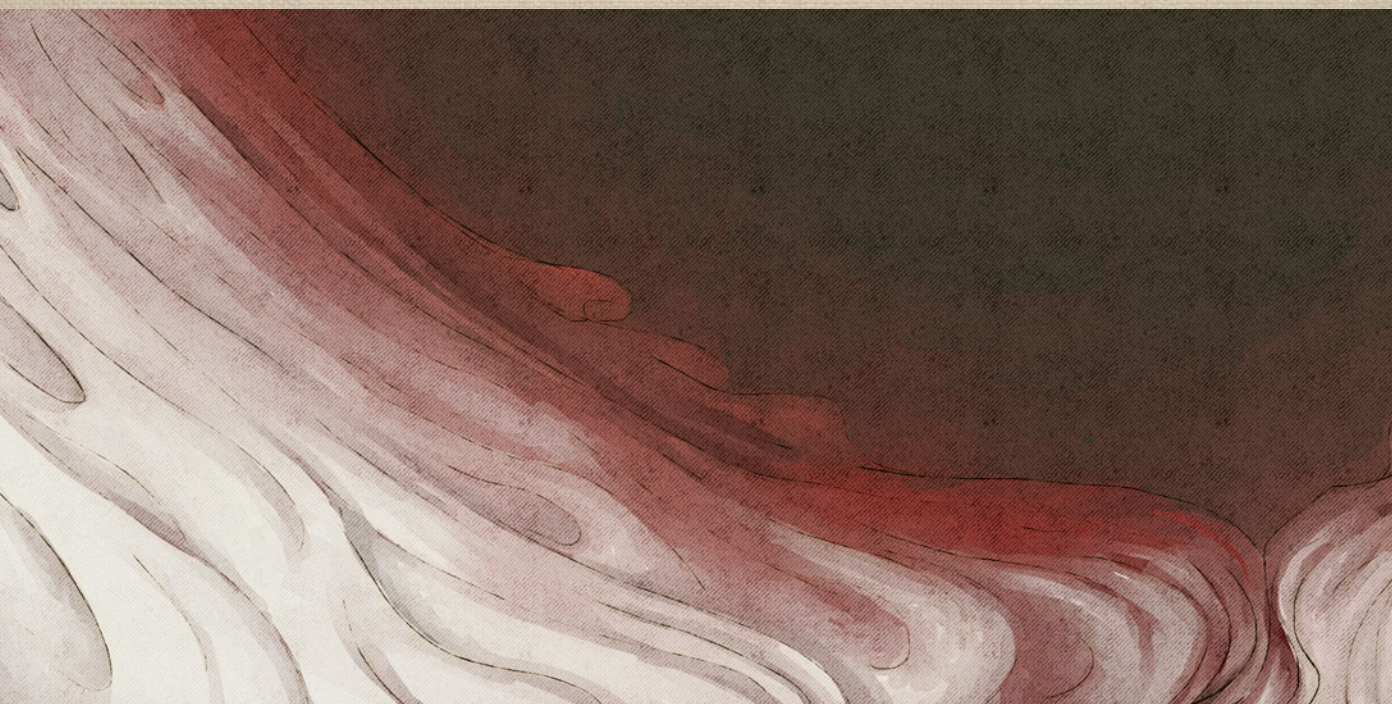
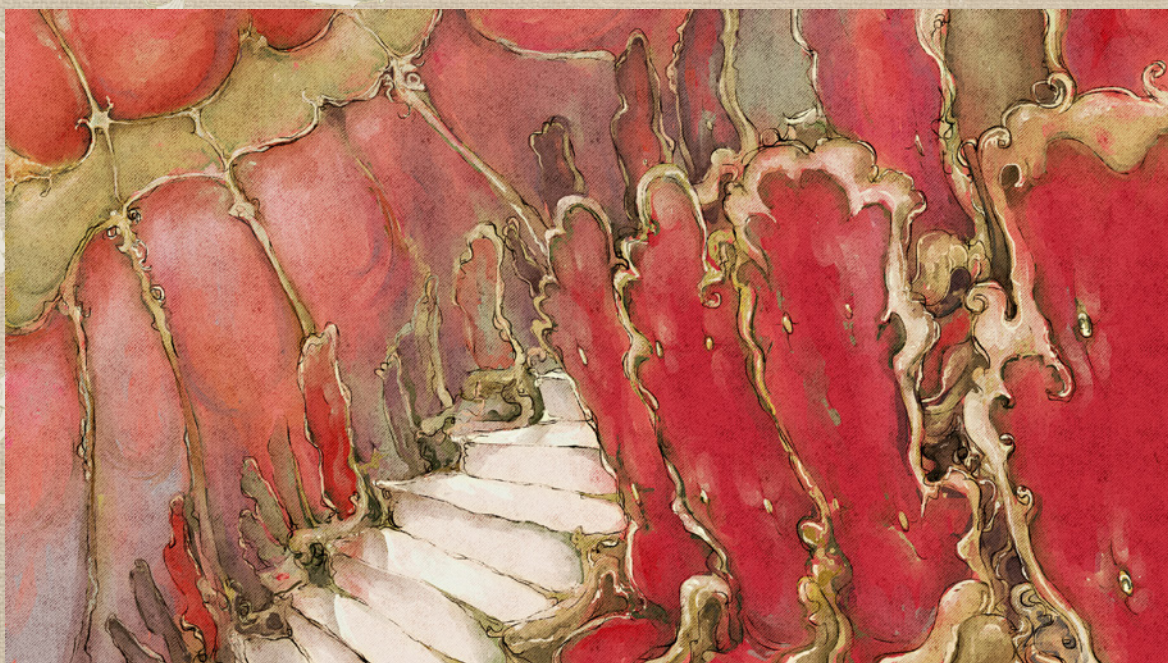




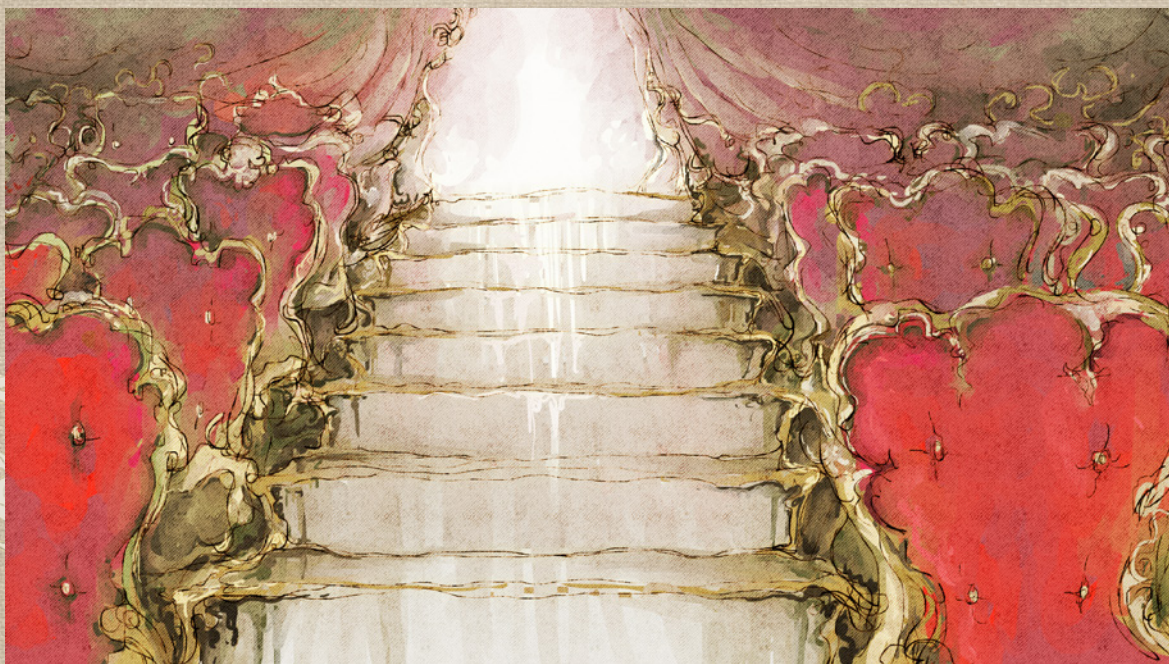
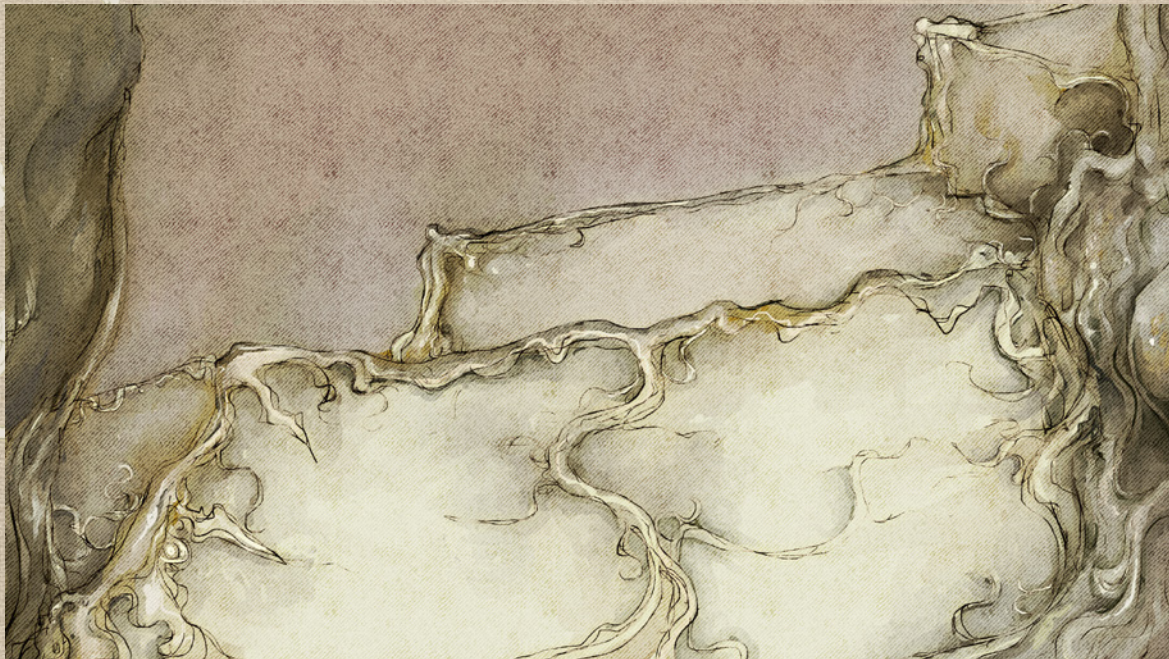


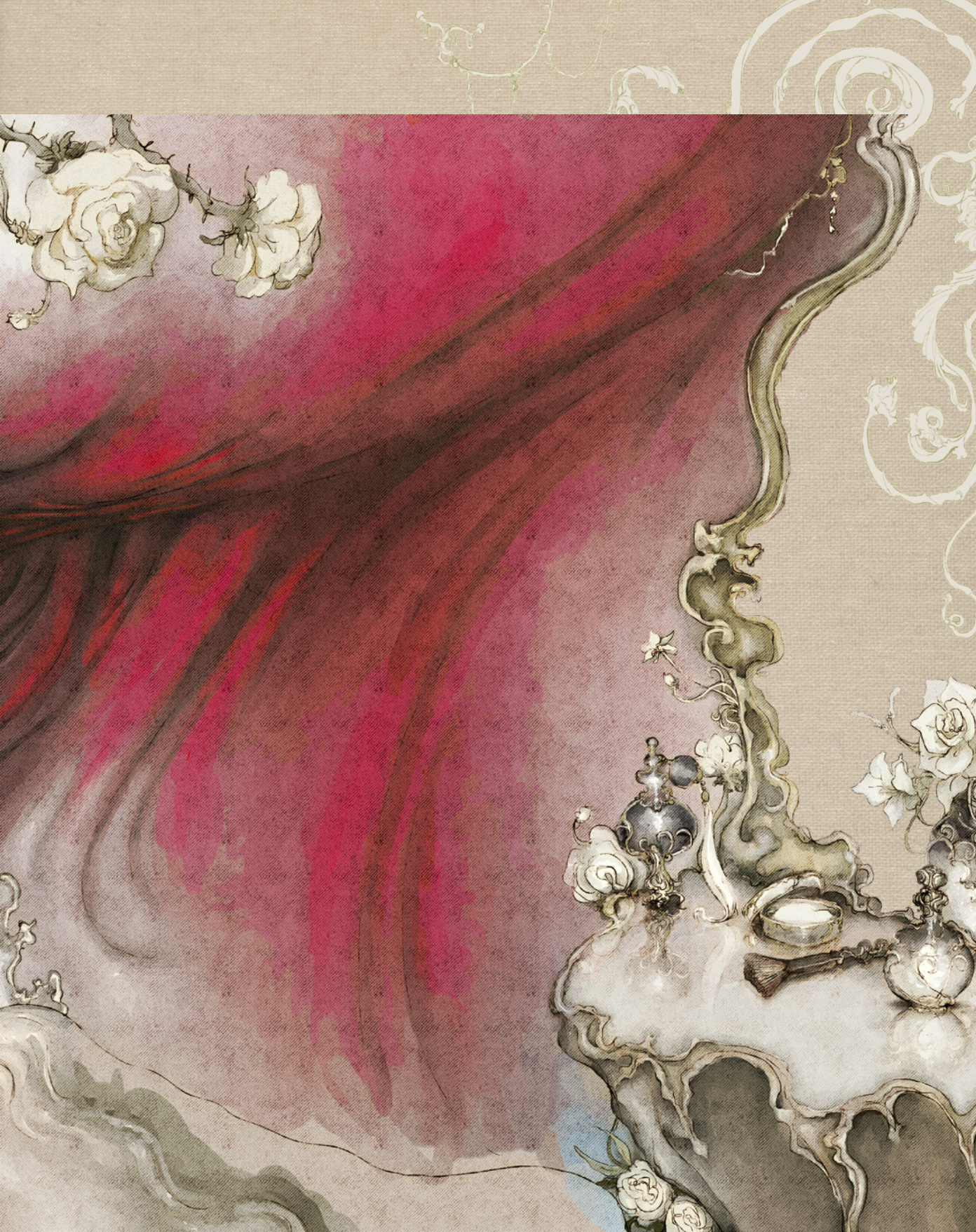








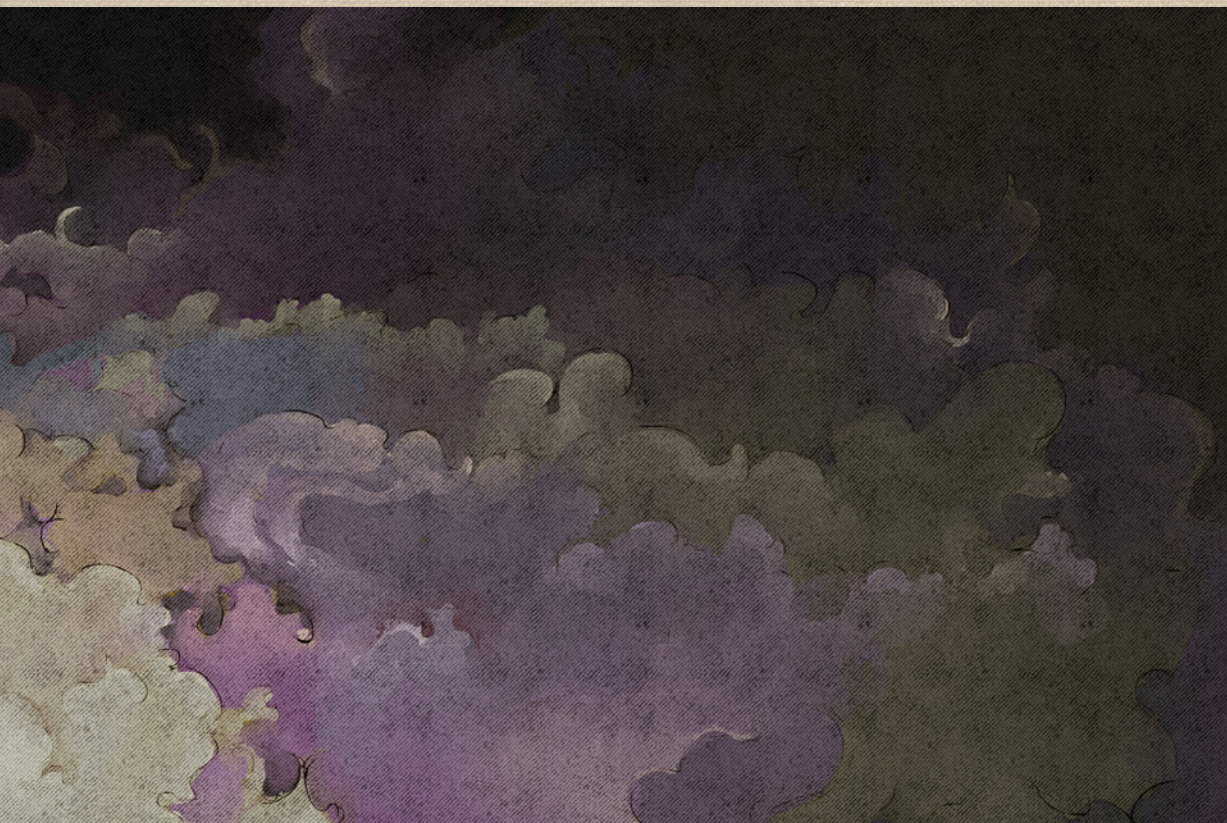


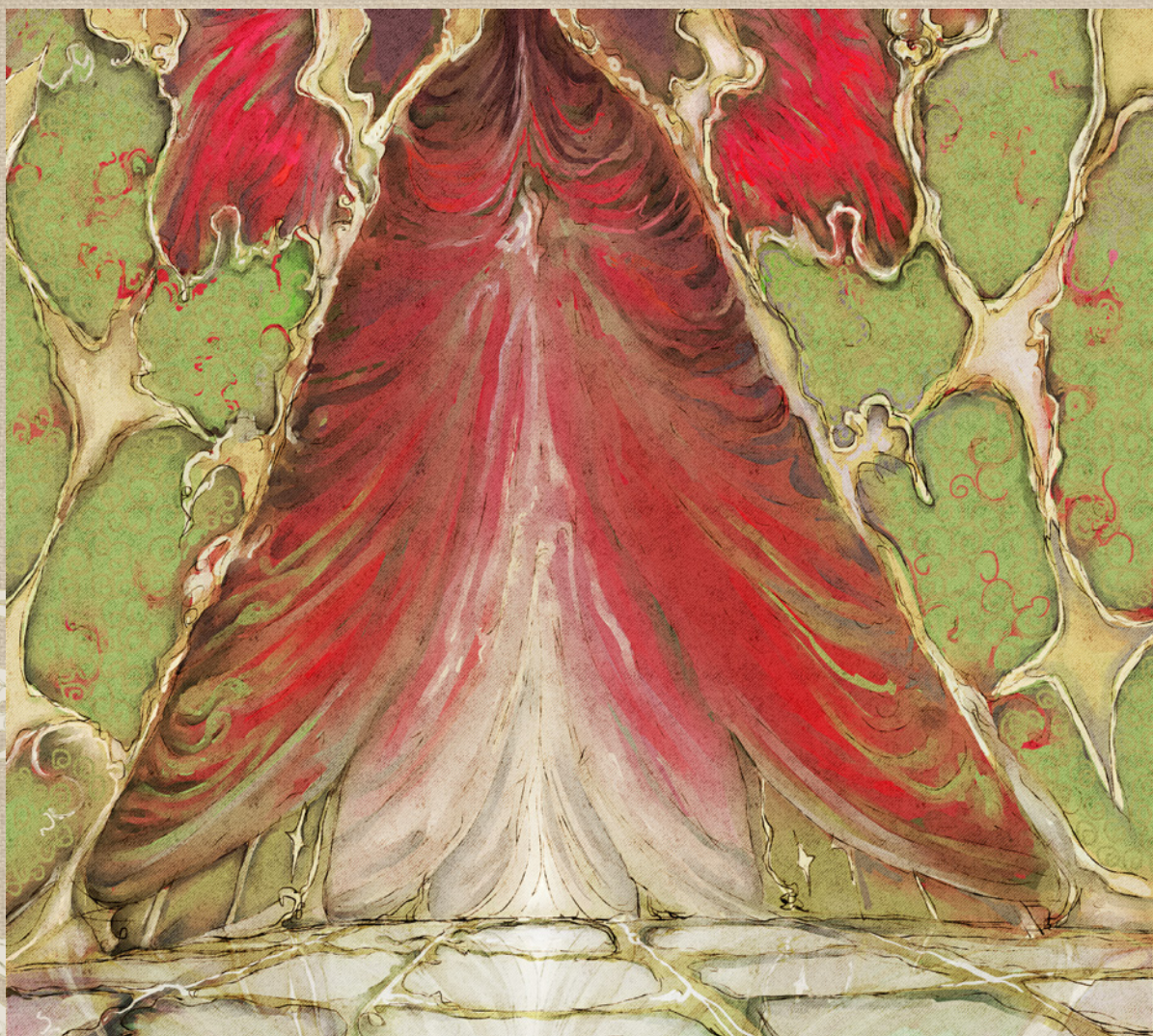
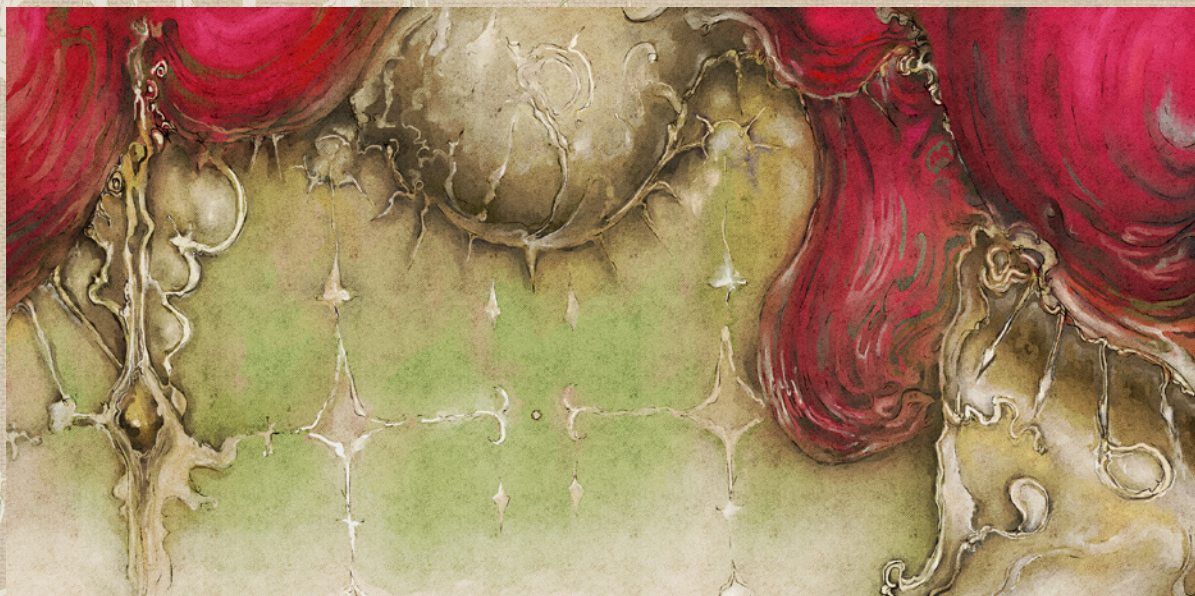


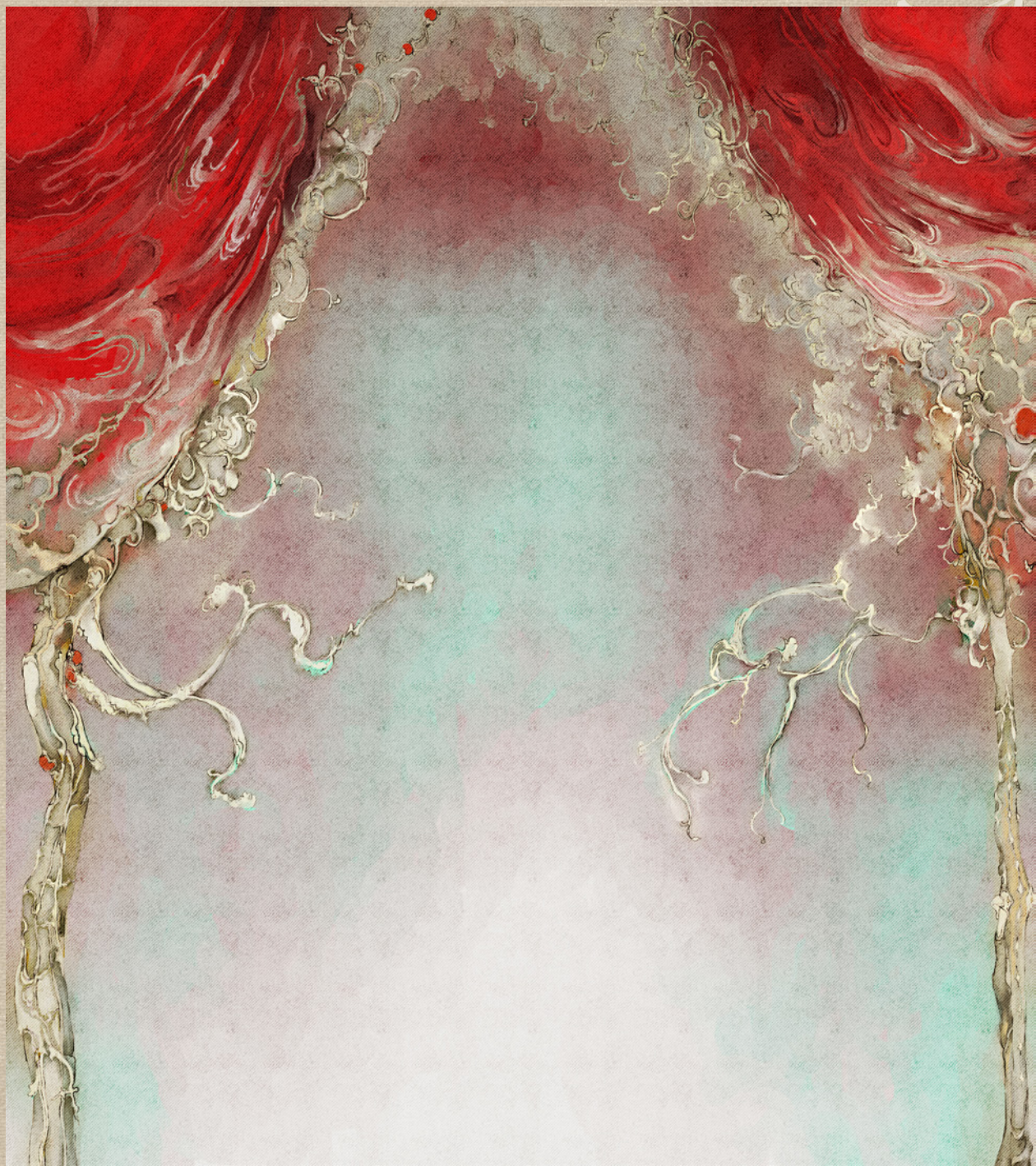










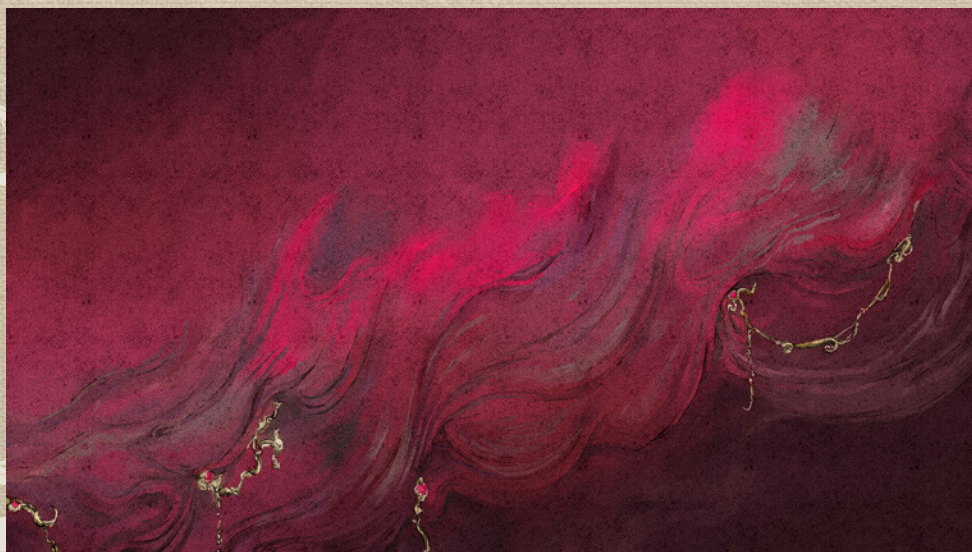
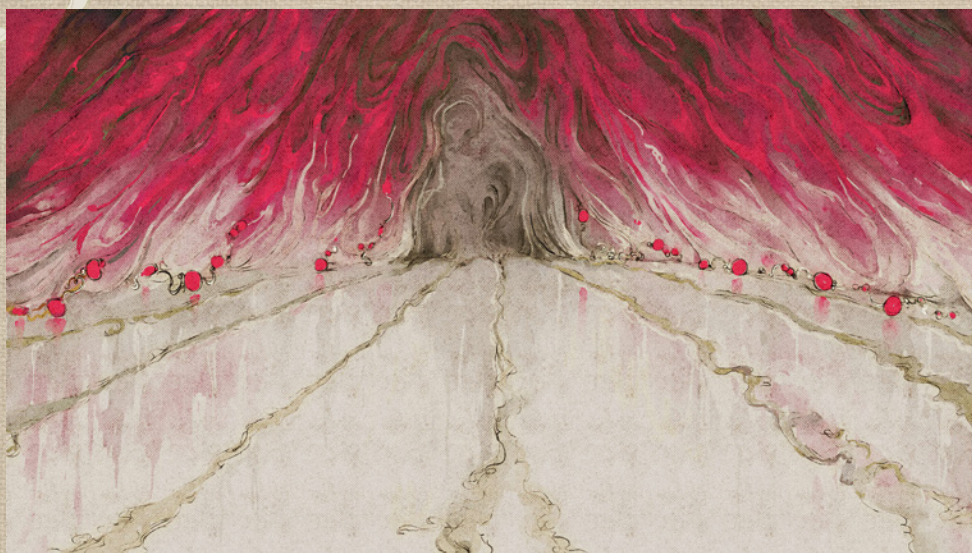
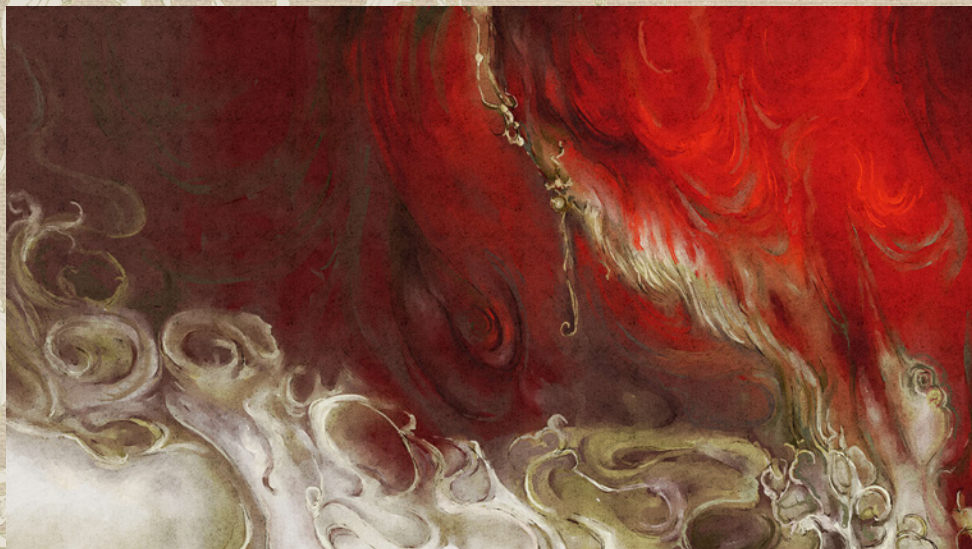


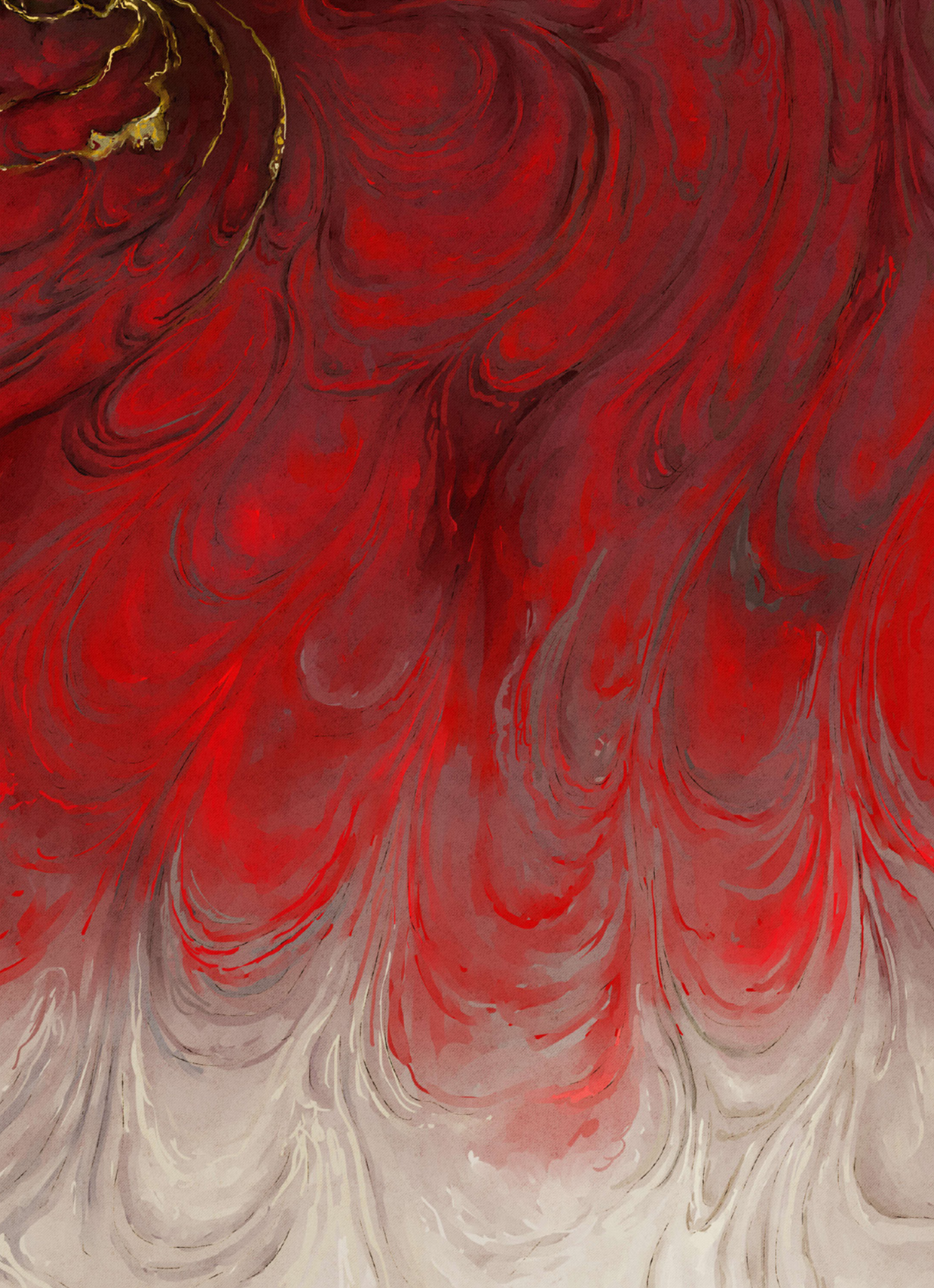


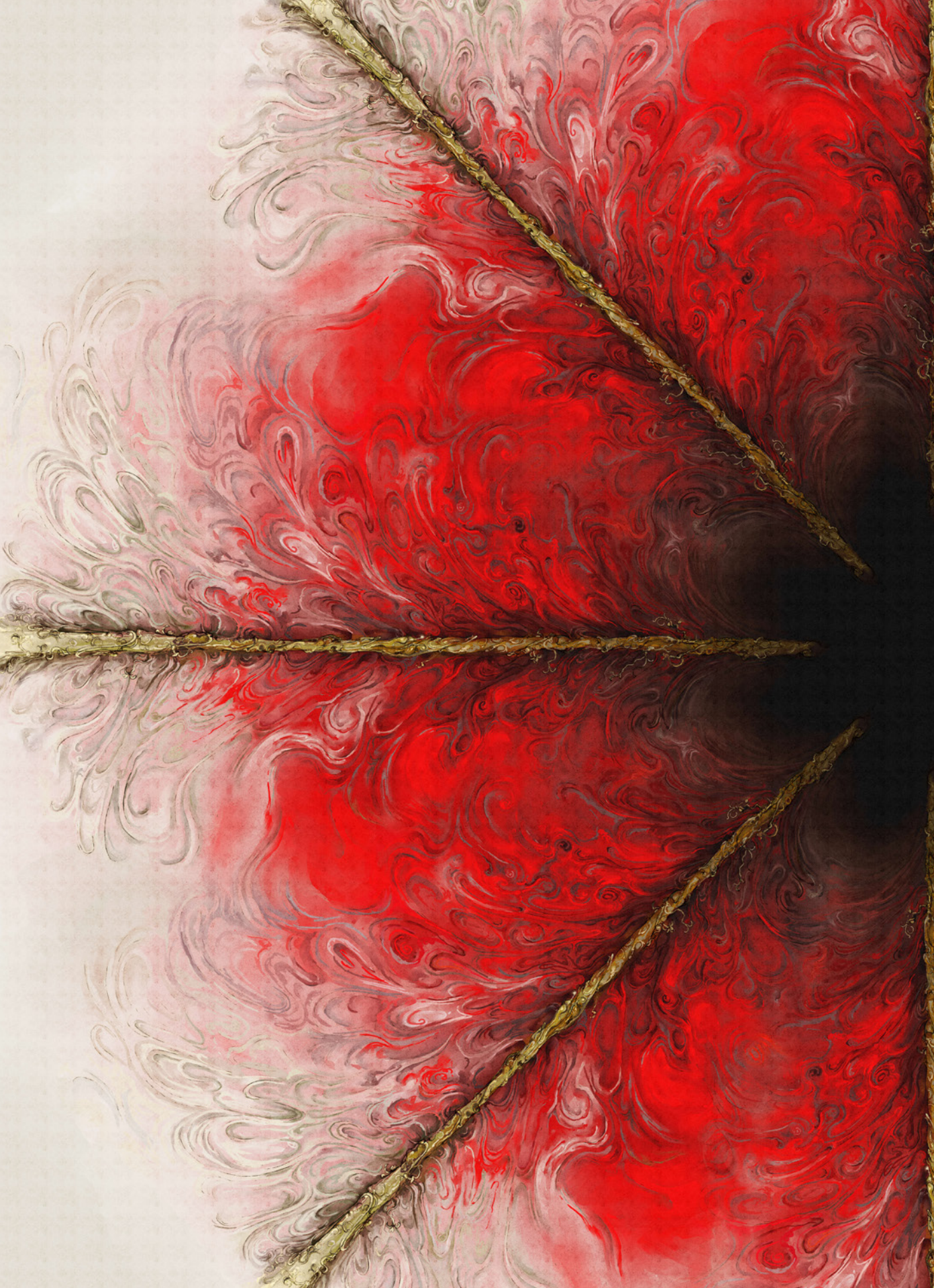


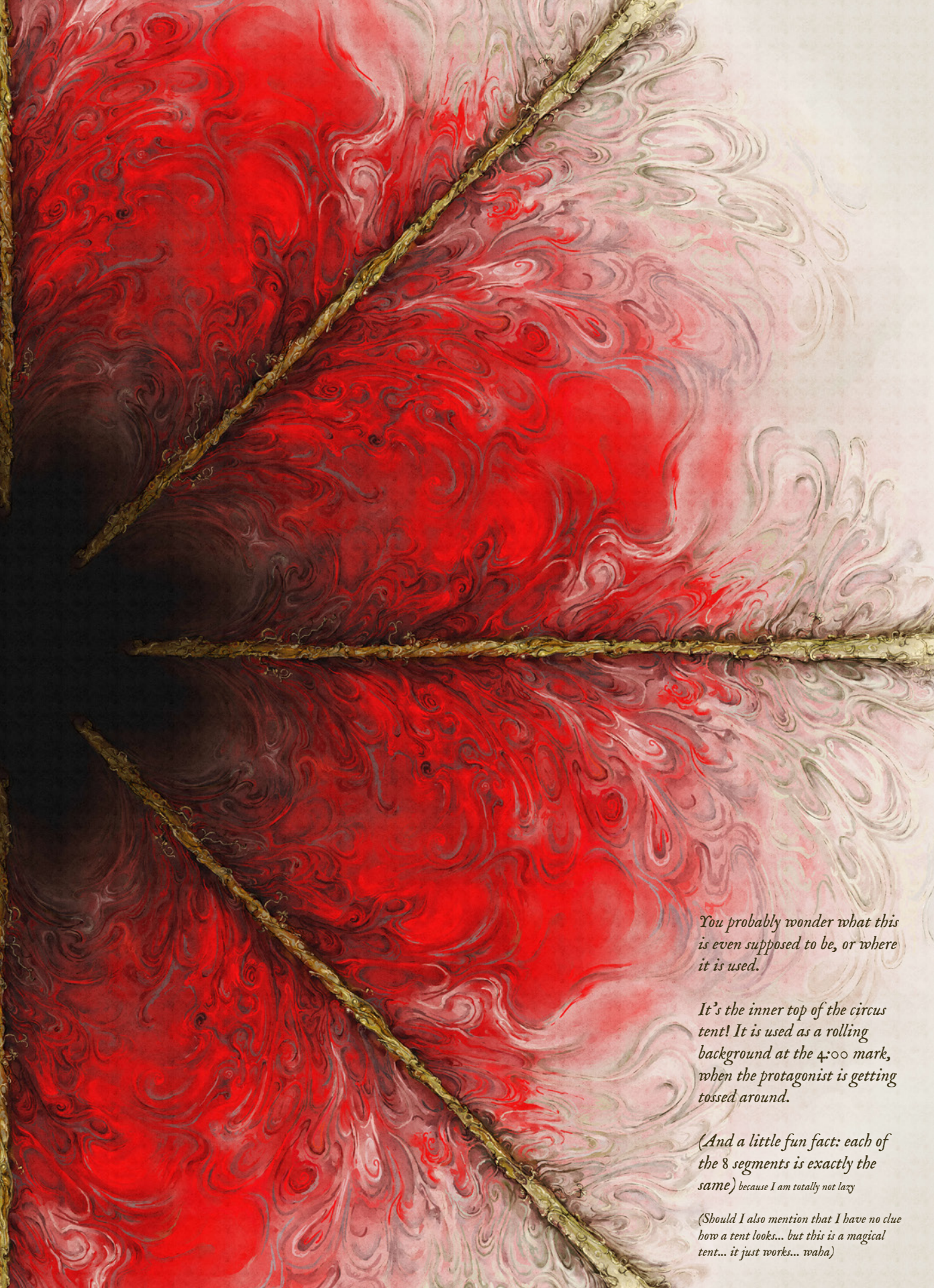










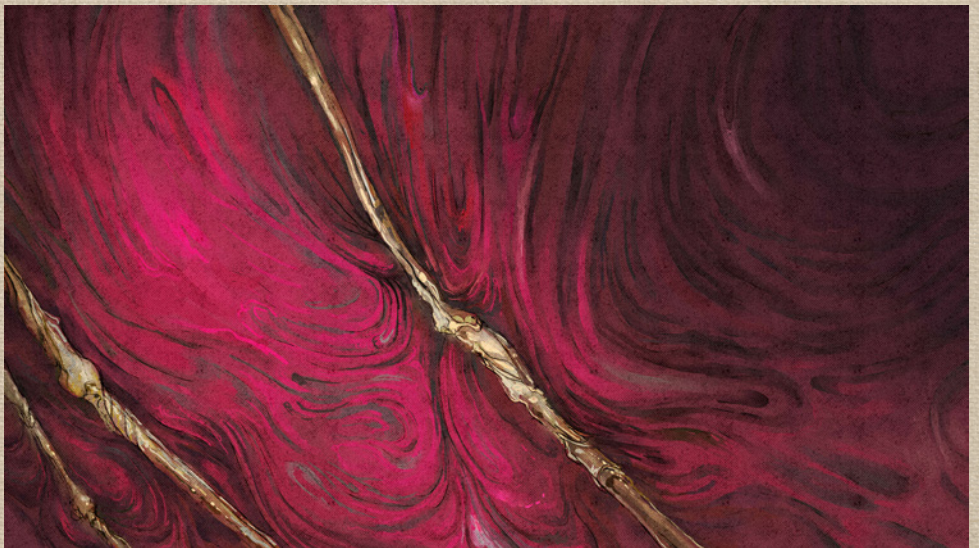
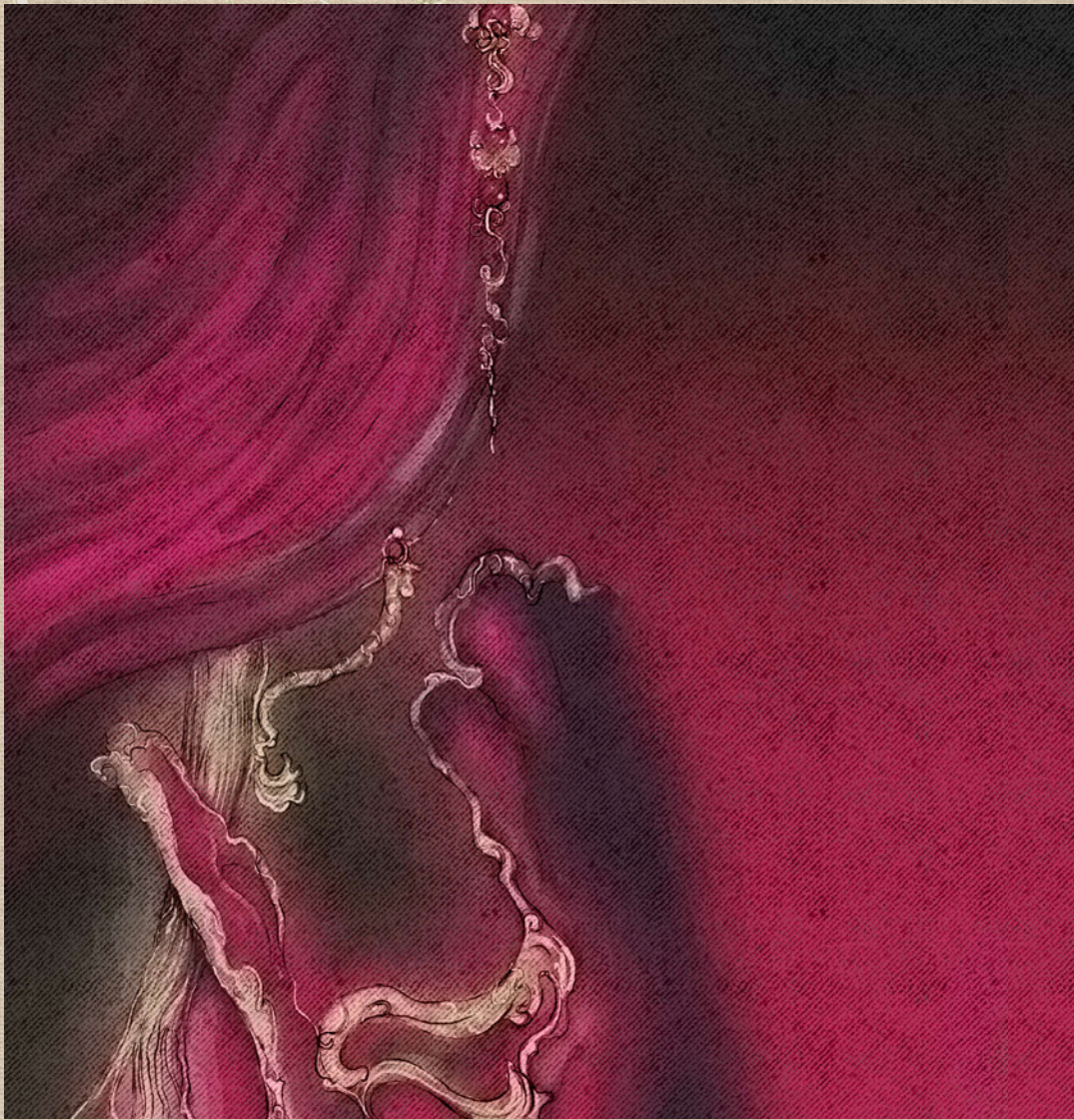


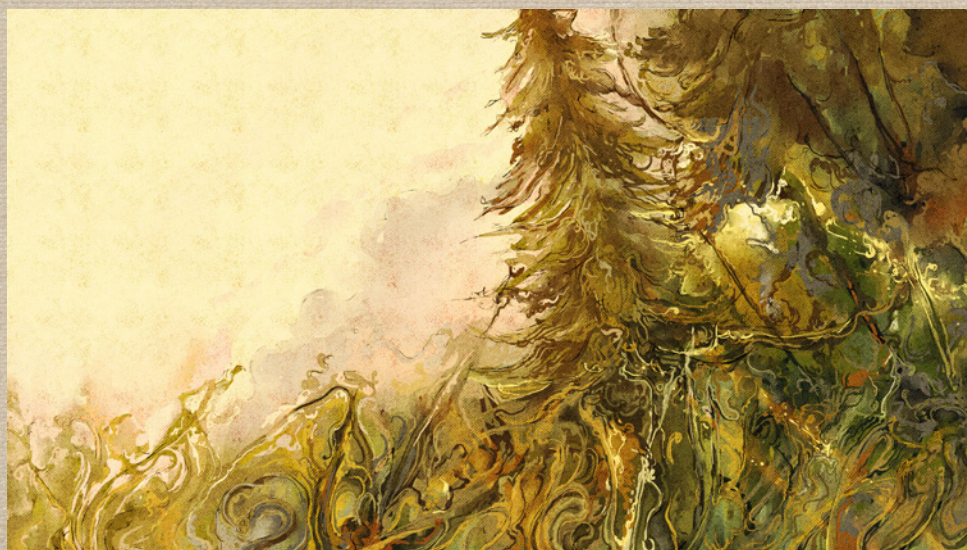
You probably wonder what this is even supposed to be, or where it is used.

It's the inner top of the circus tent! It is used as a rolling background at the 4:00 mark, when the protagonist is getting tossed around.

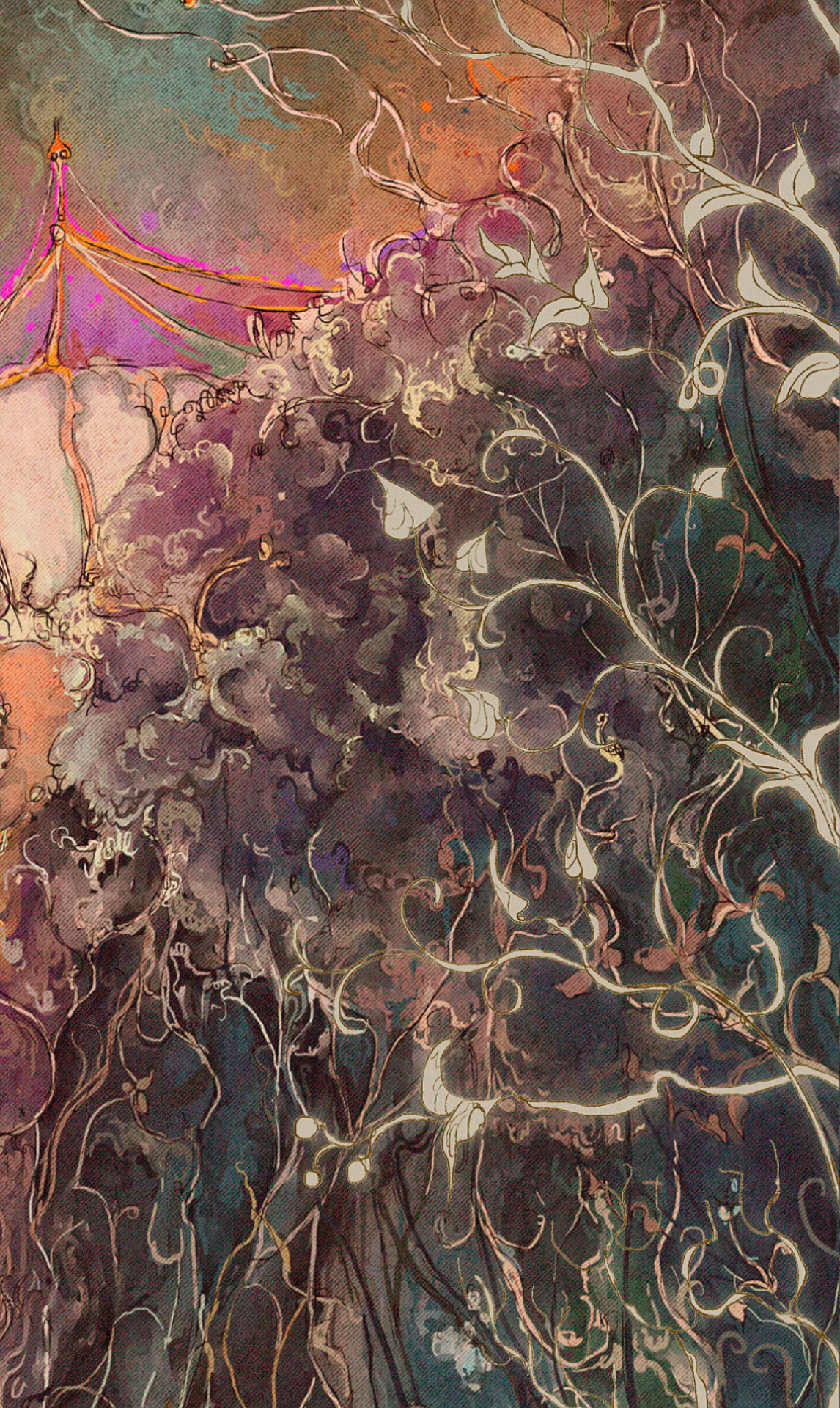
(And a little fun fact: each of the 8 segments is exactly the same) because I am totally not lazy

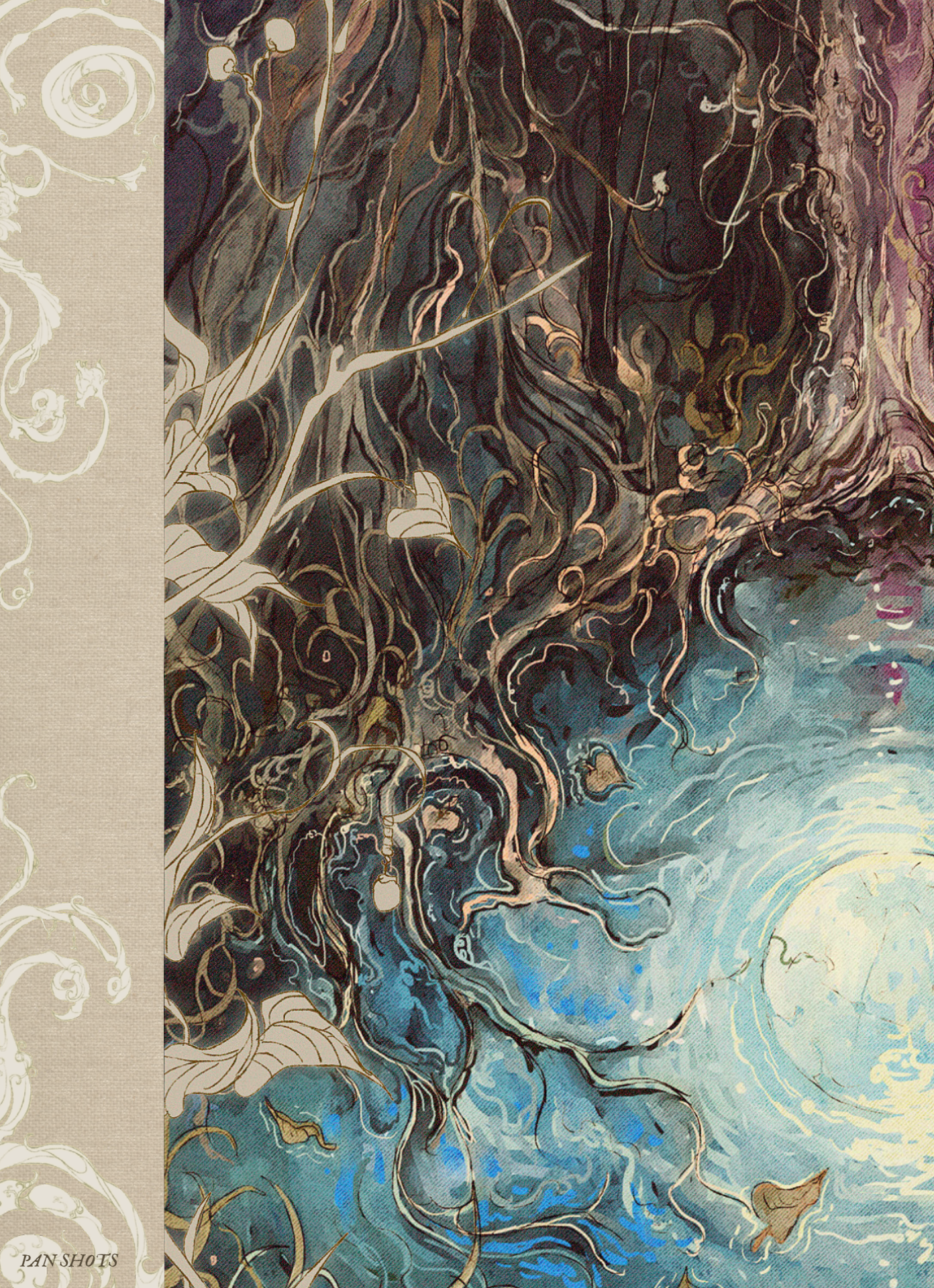
(Should I also mention that I have no clue how a tent looks... but this is a magical tent... it just works... waha)

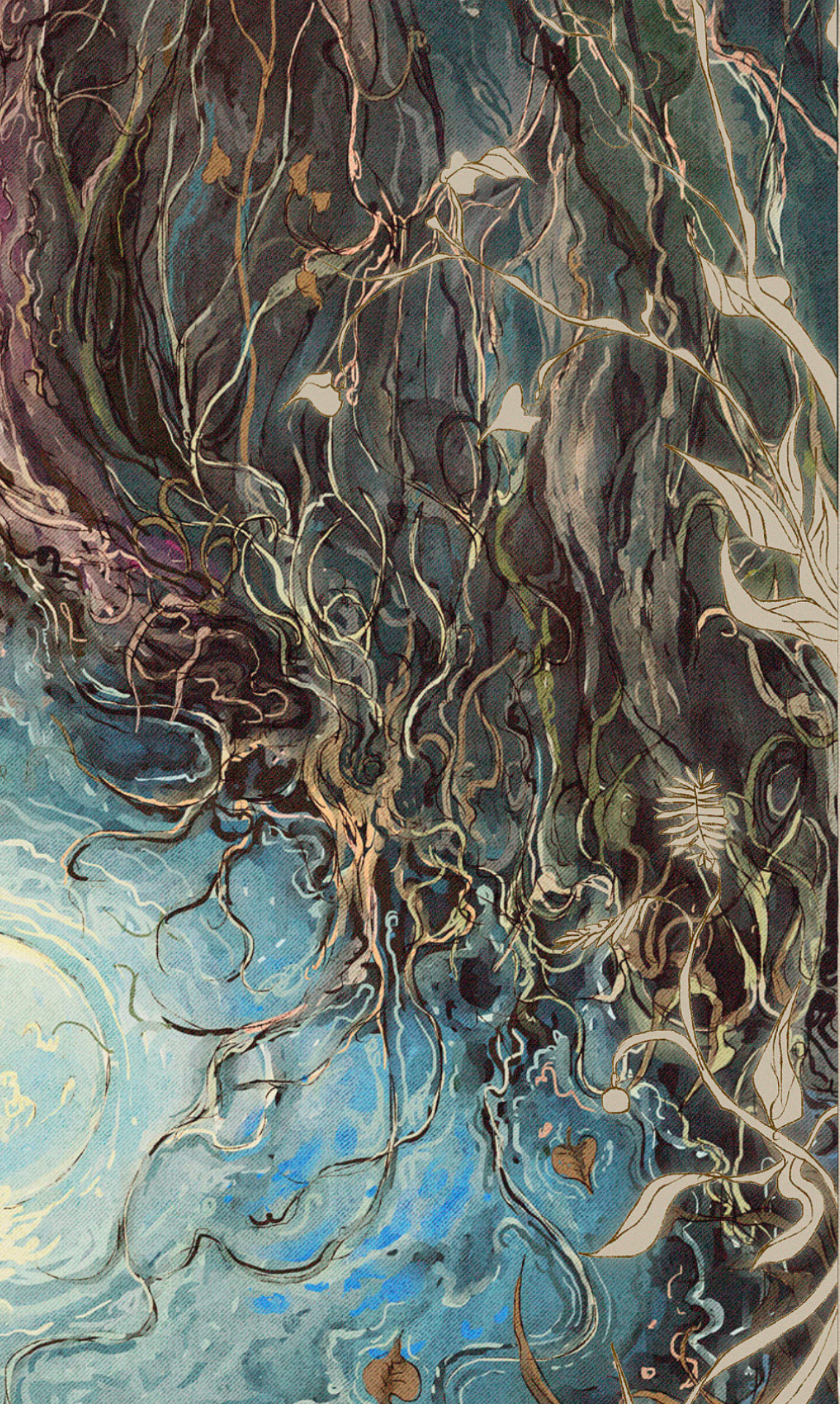


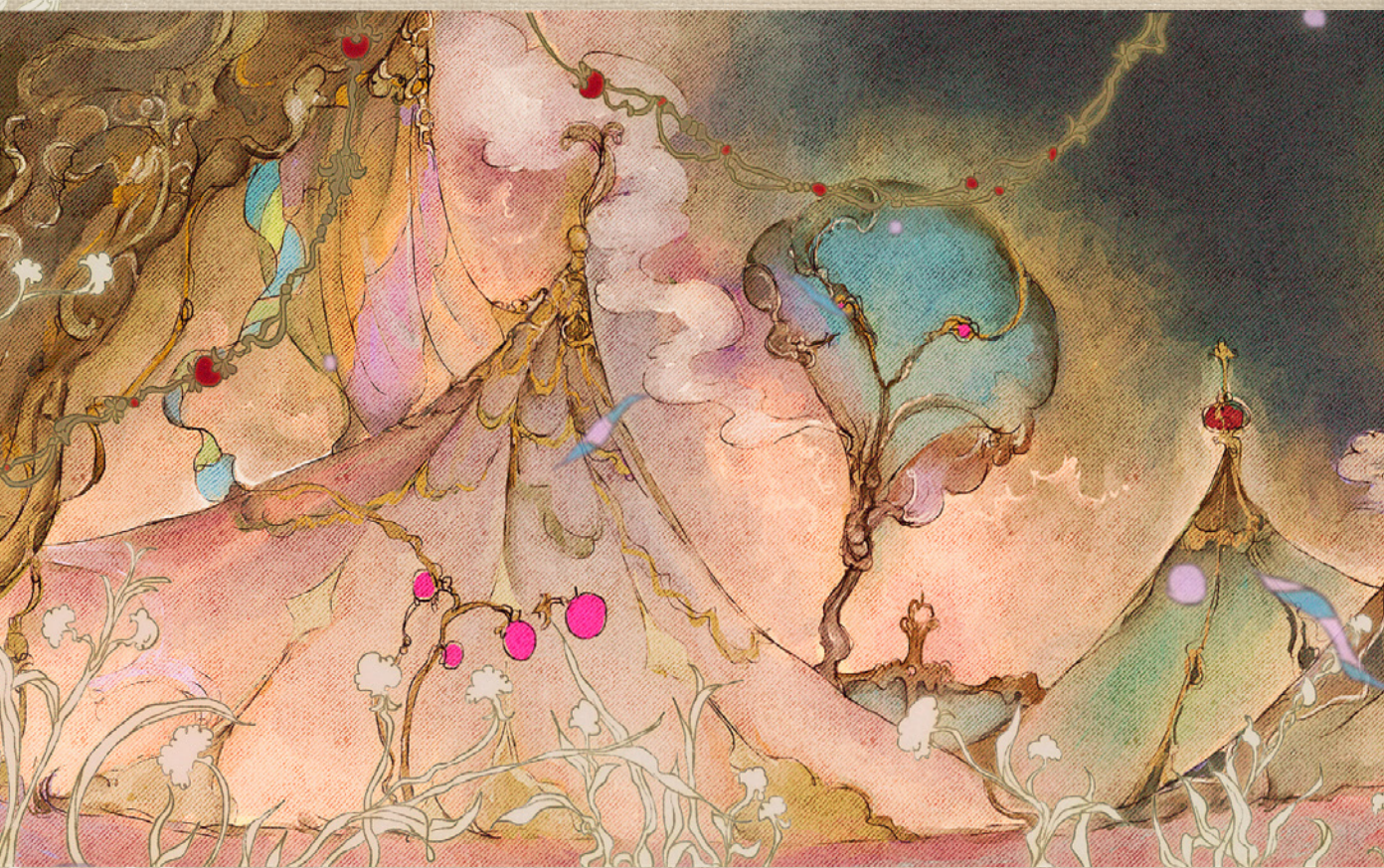


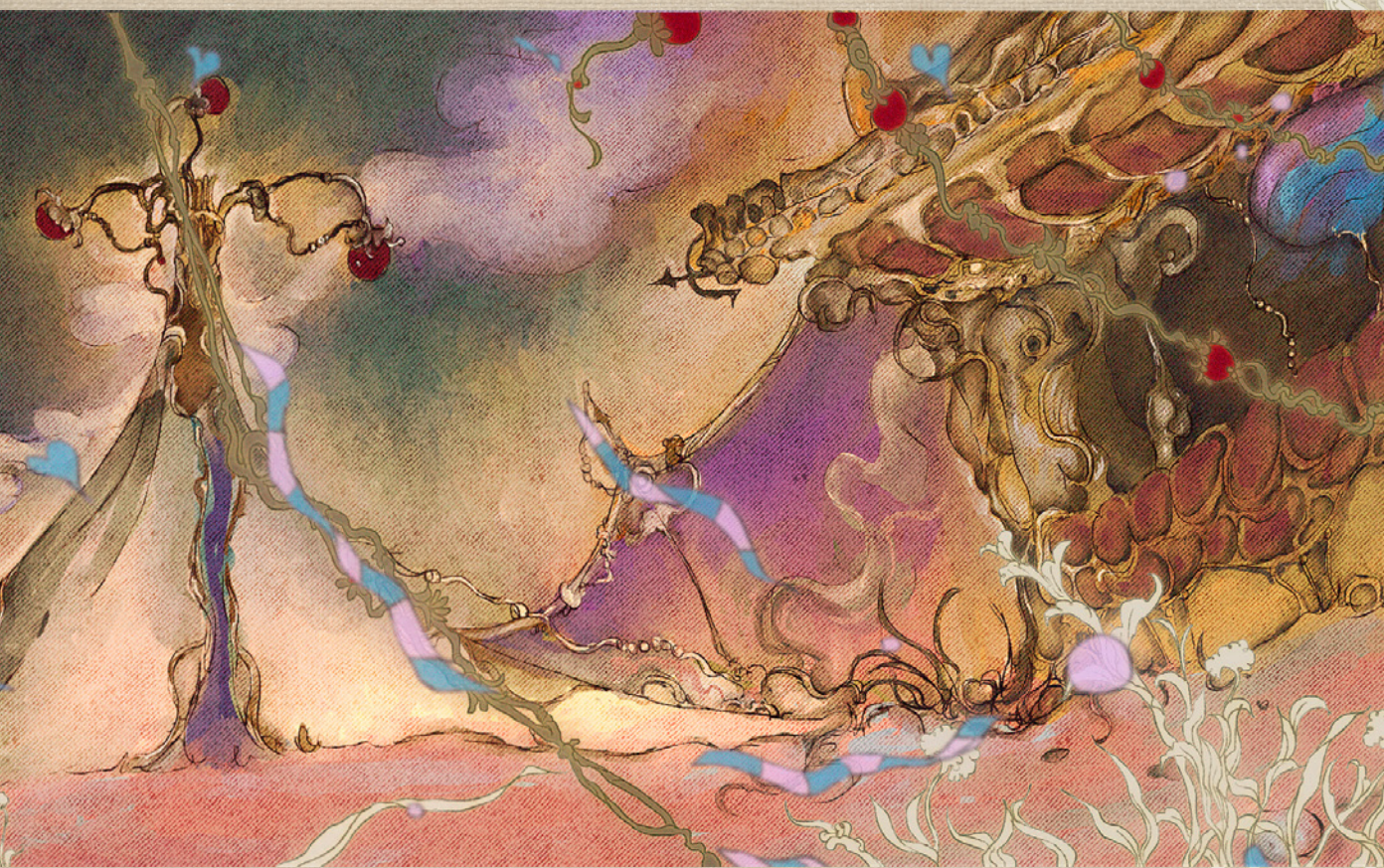






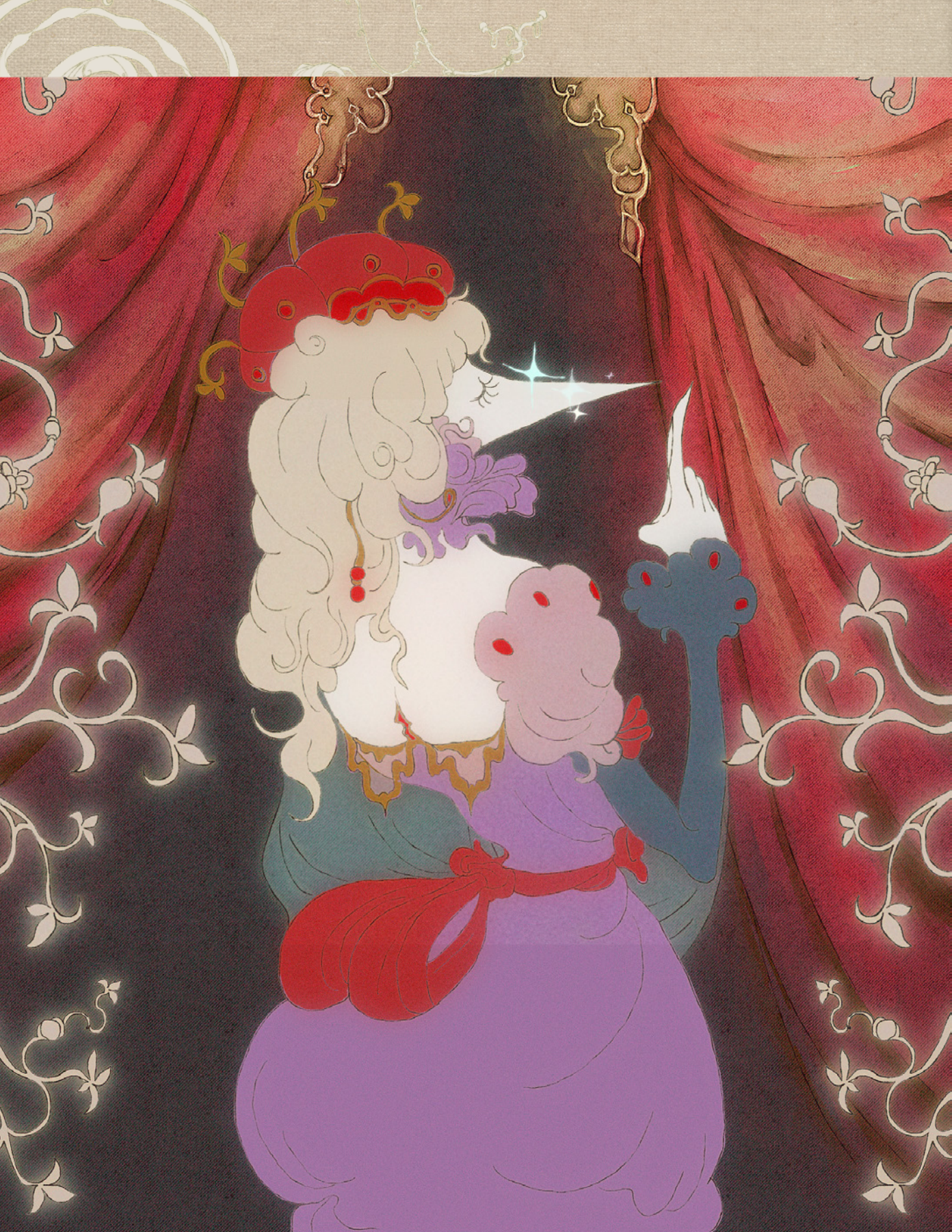




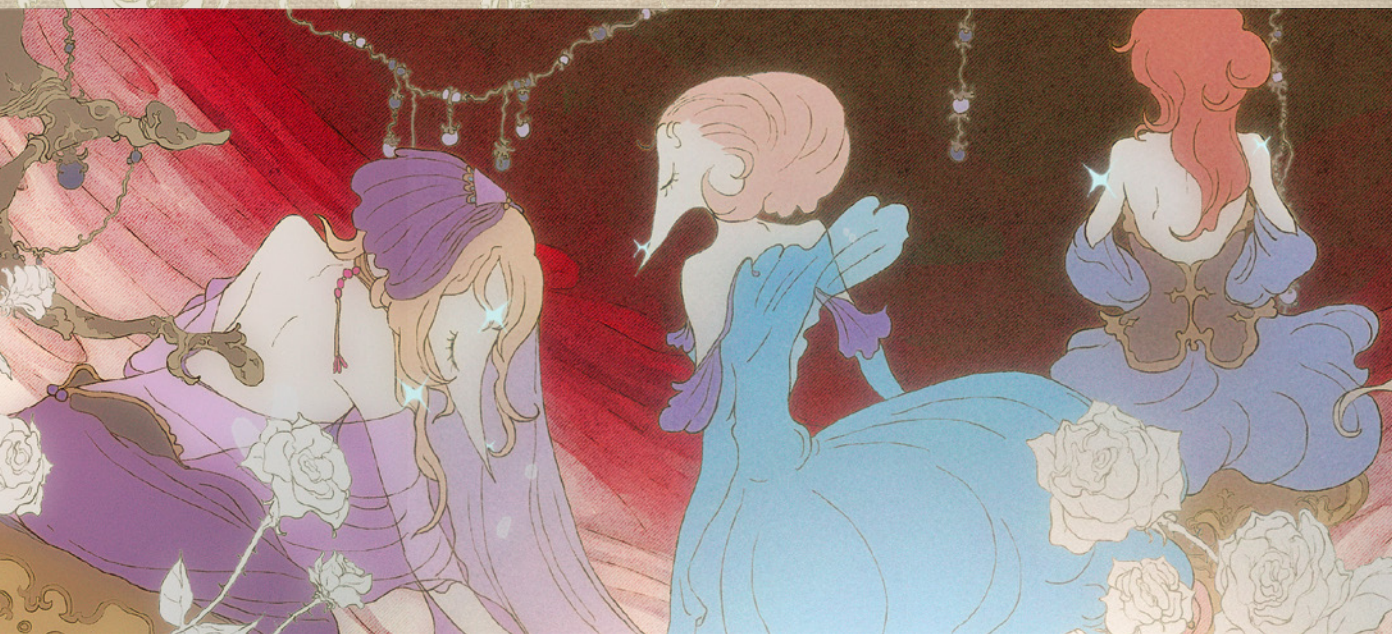


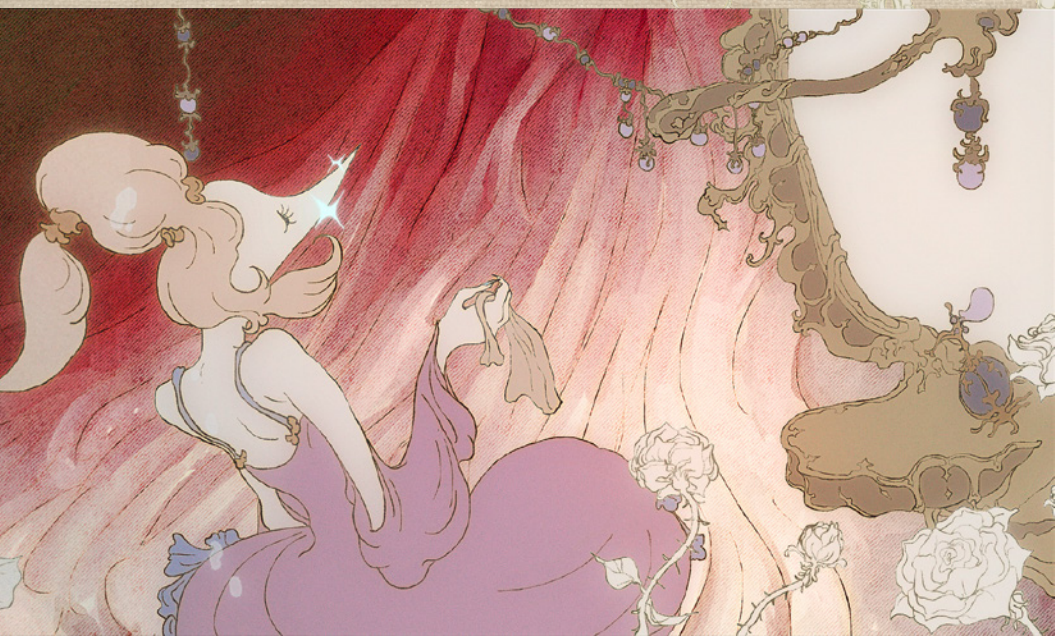






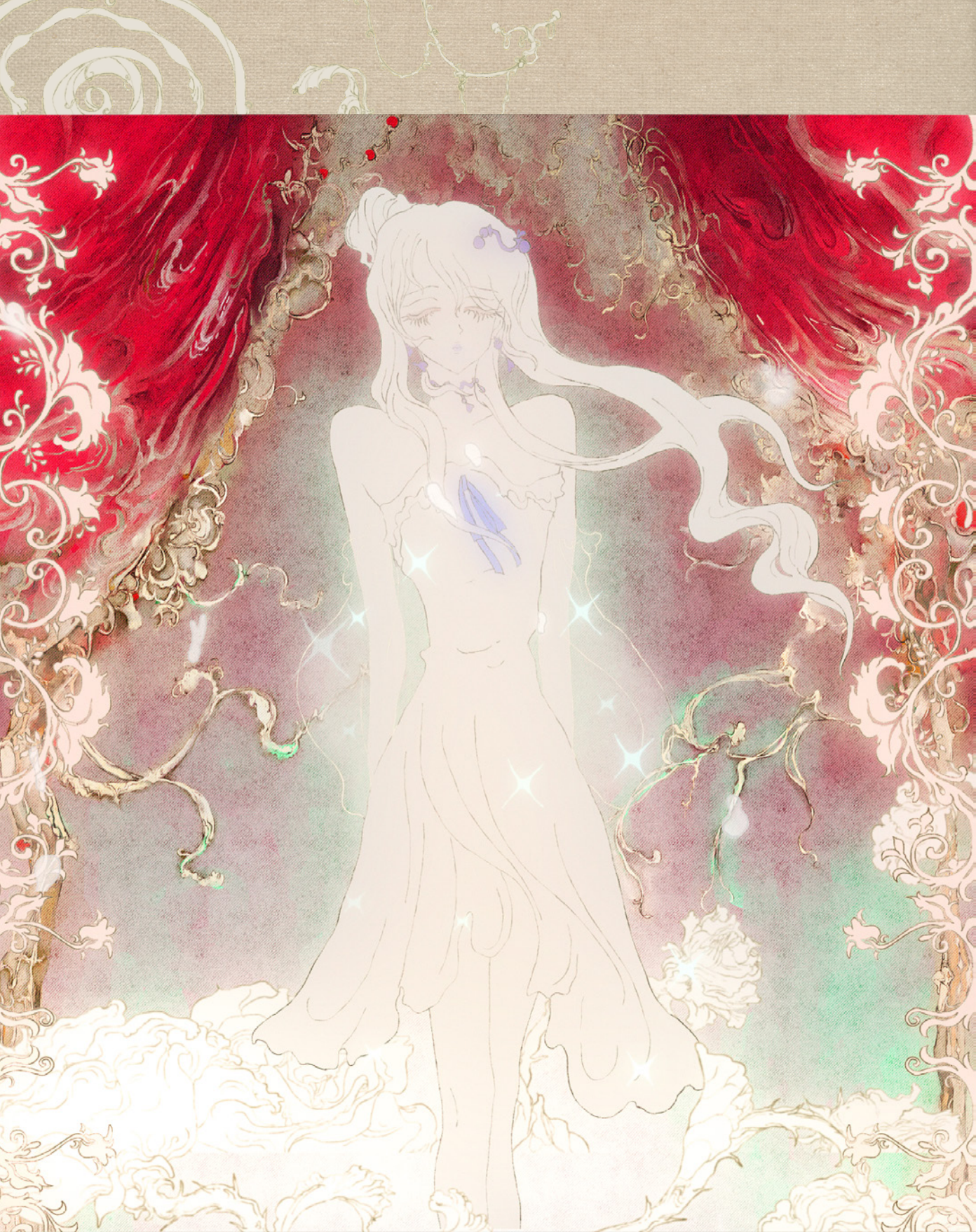






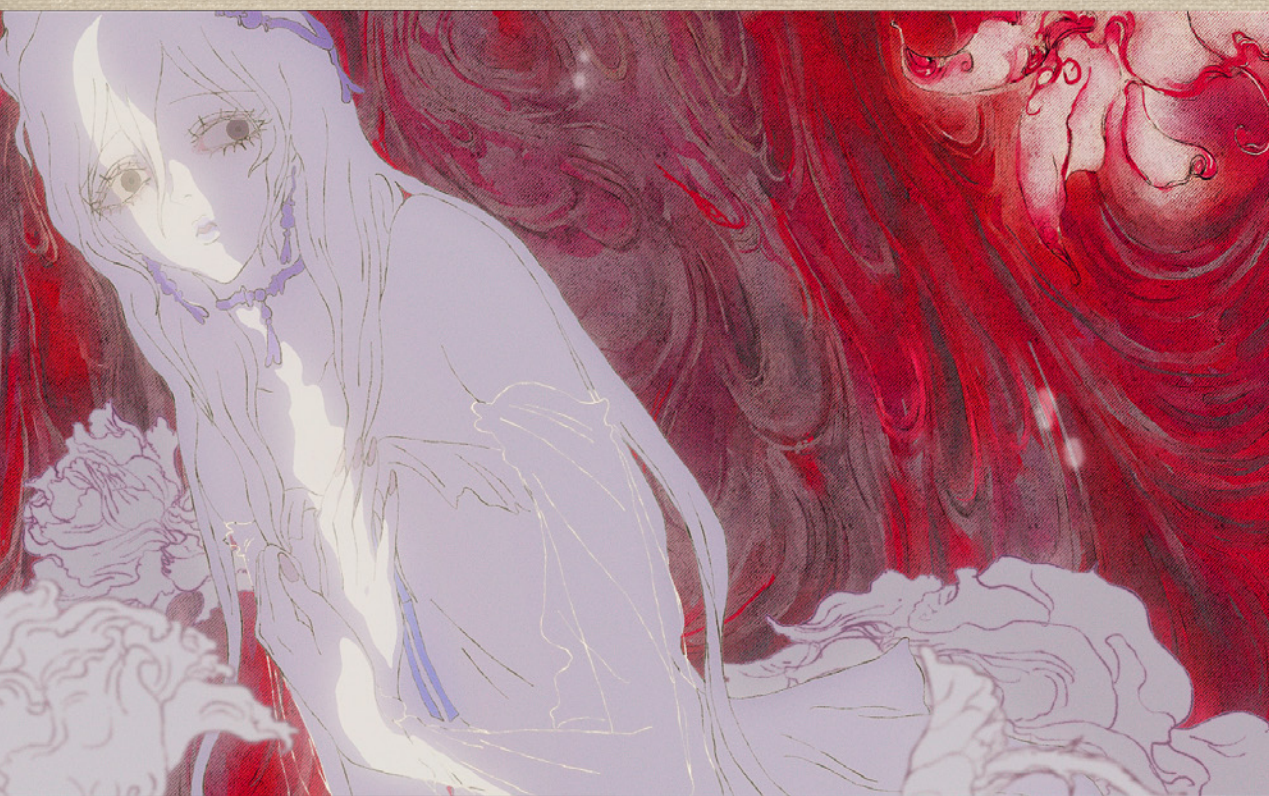










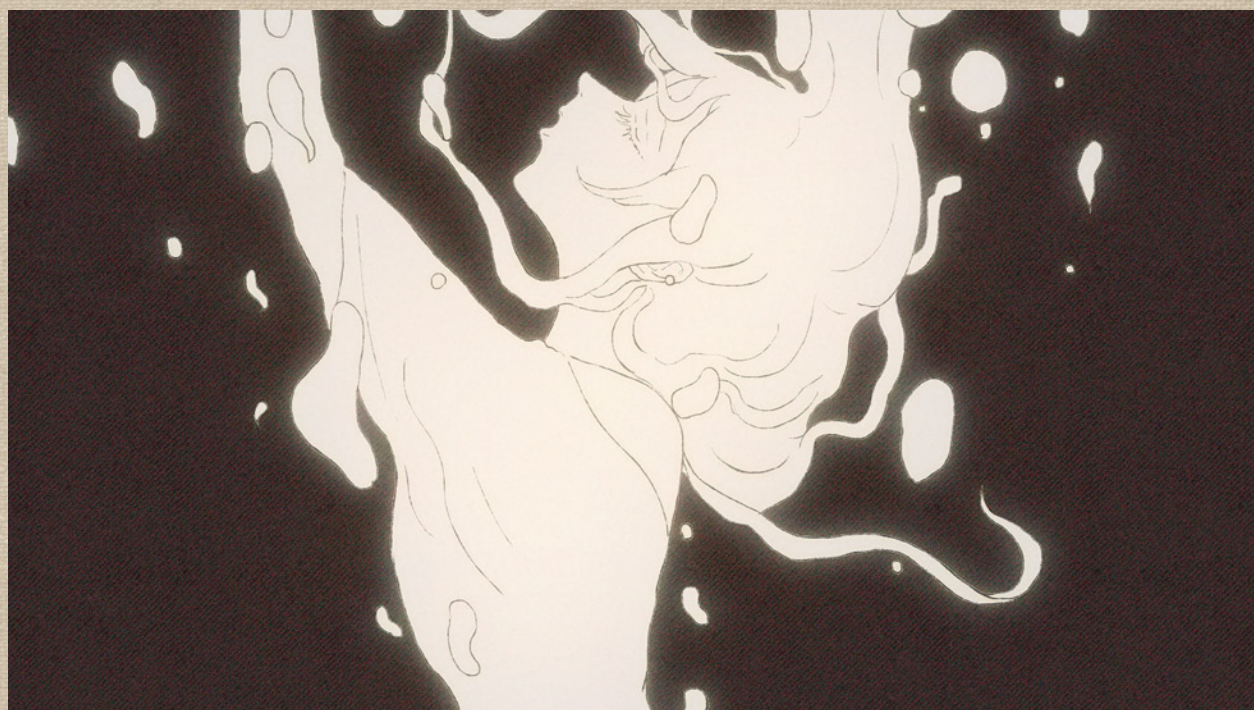


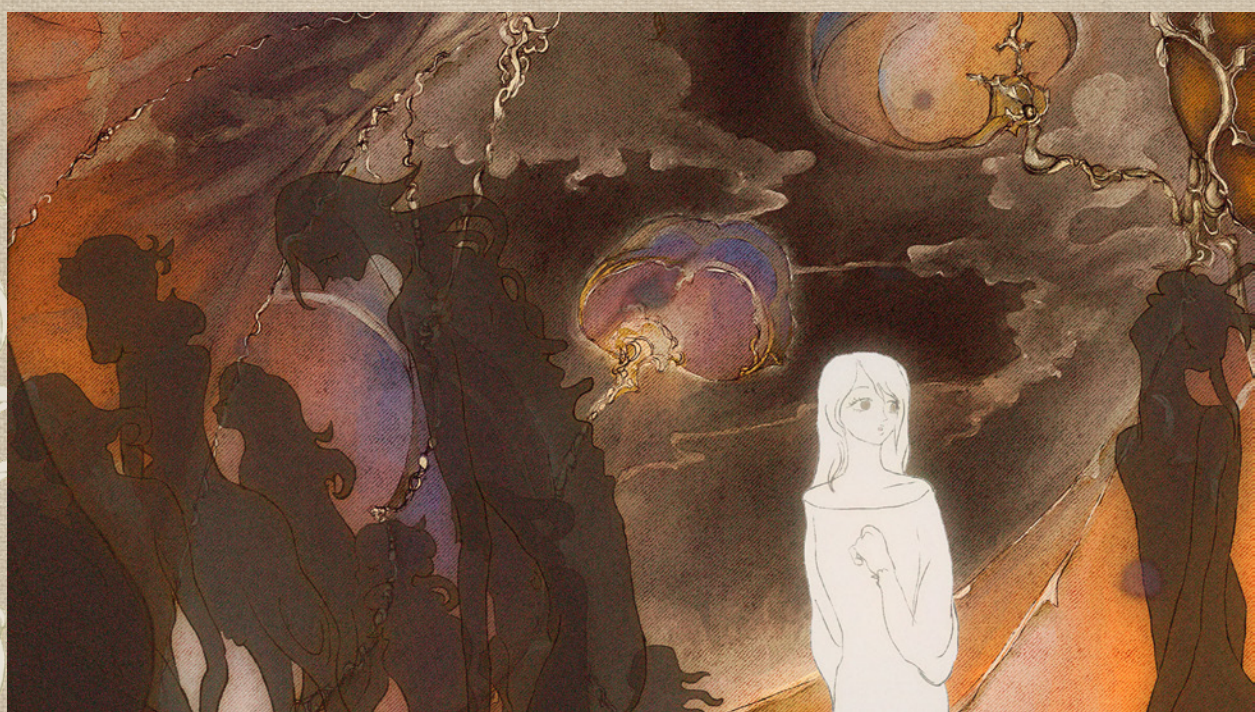


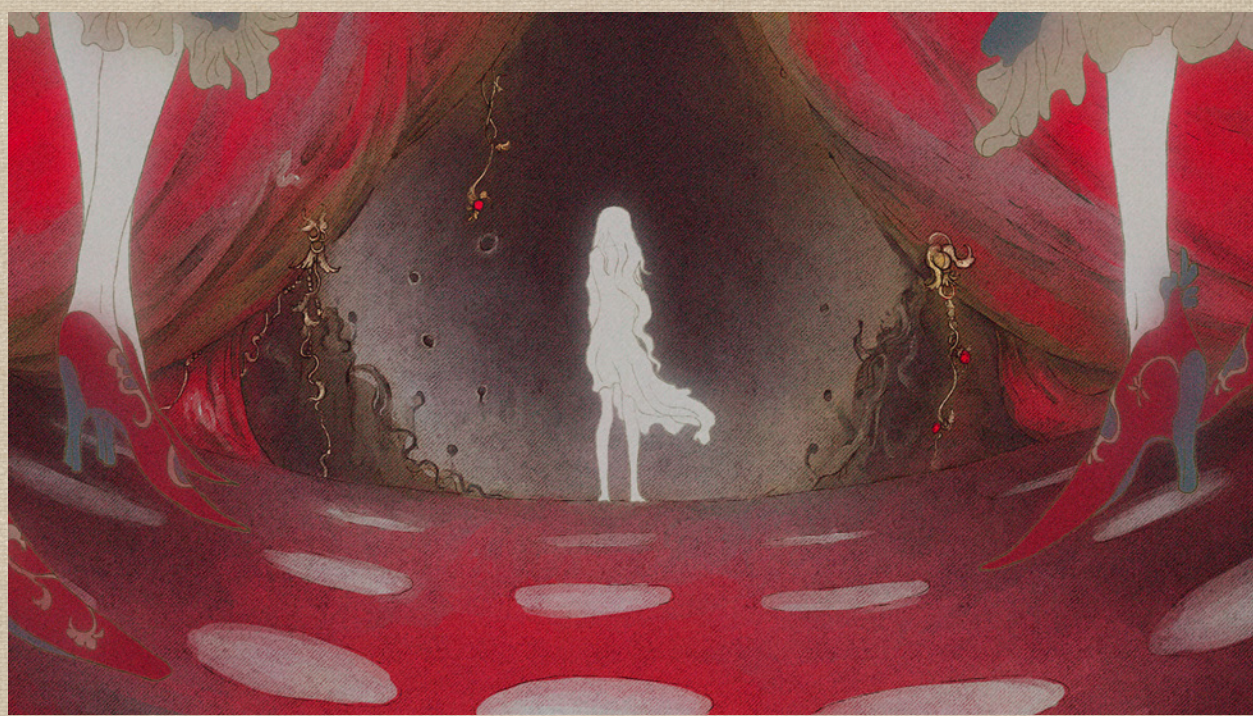
THE GREATEST LIVING SHOW

NEVER BEEN TOLD

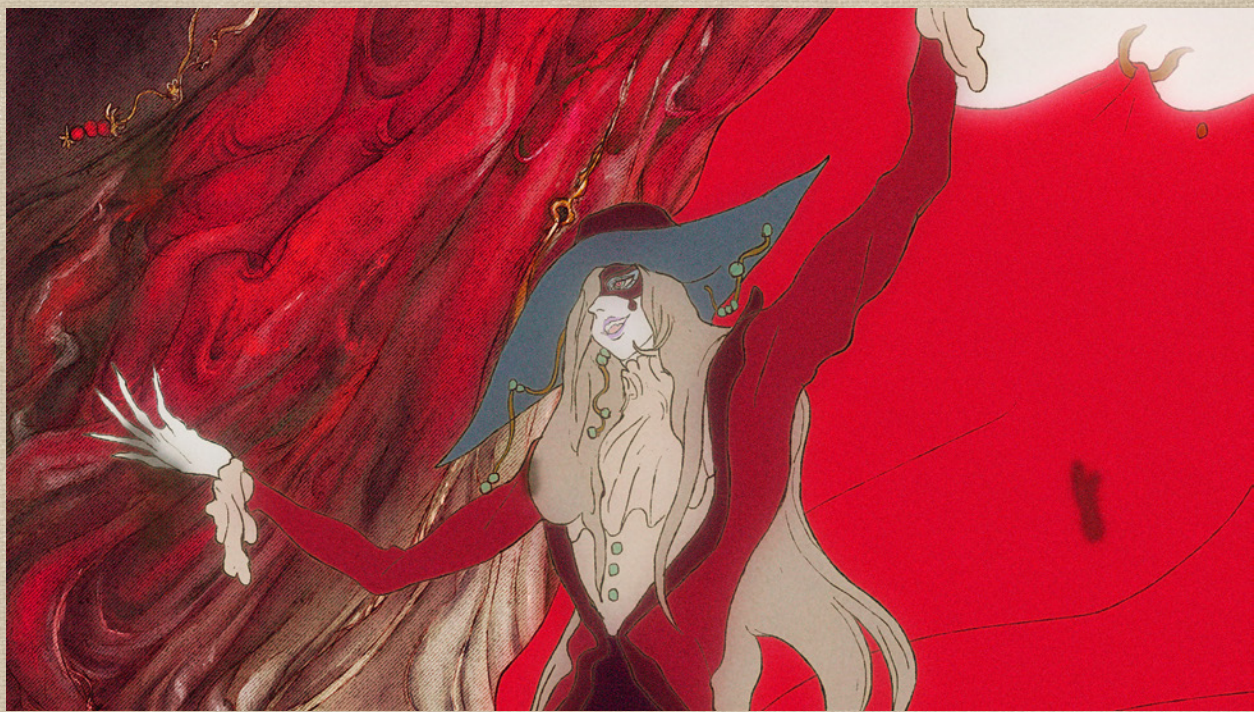
SELECTED SHOTS





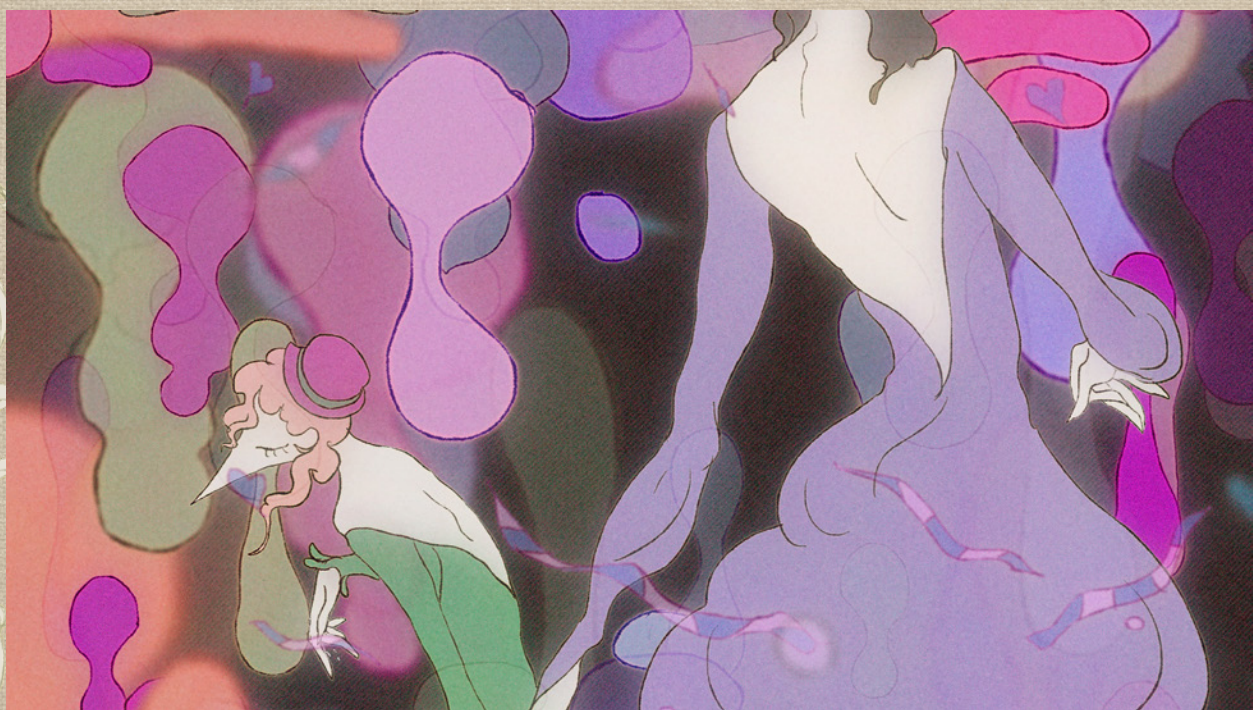


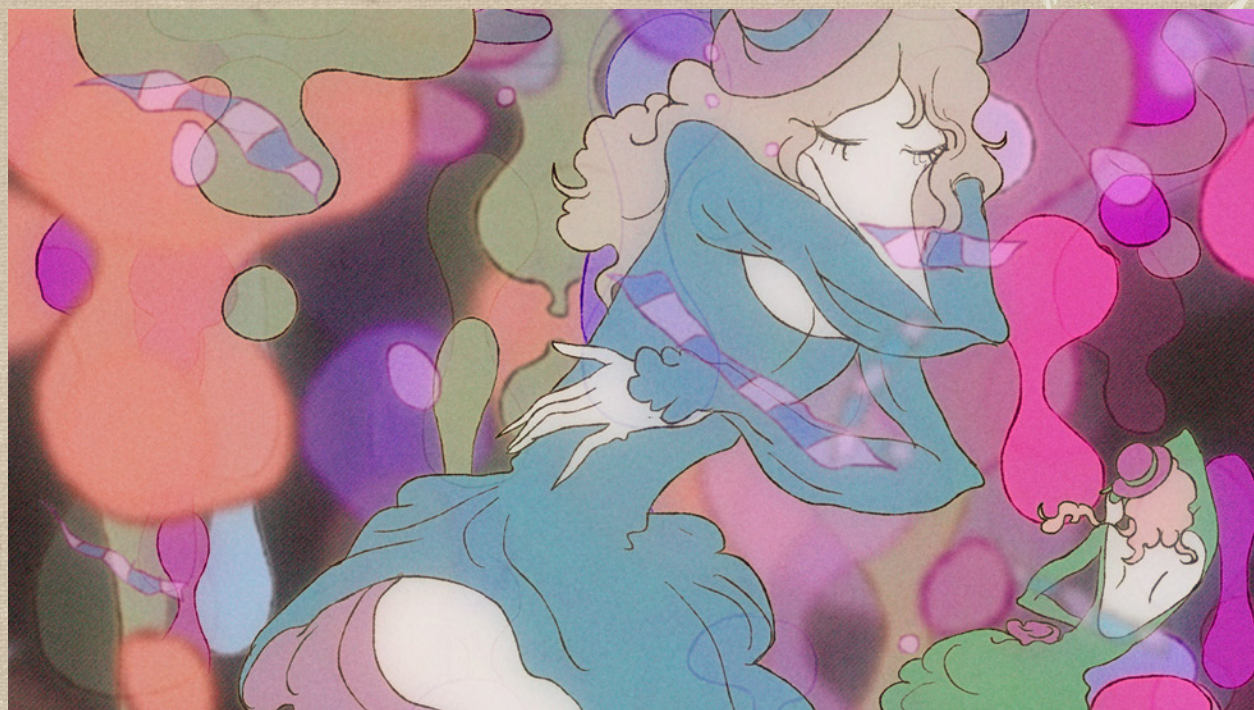


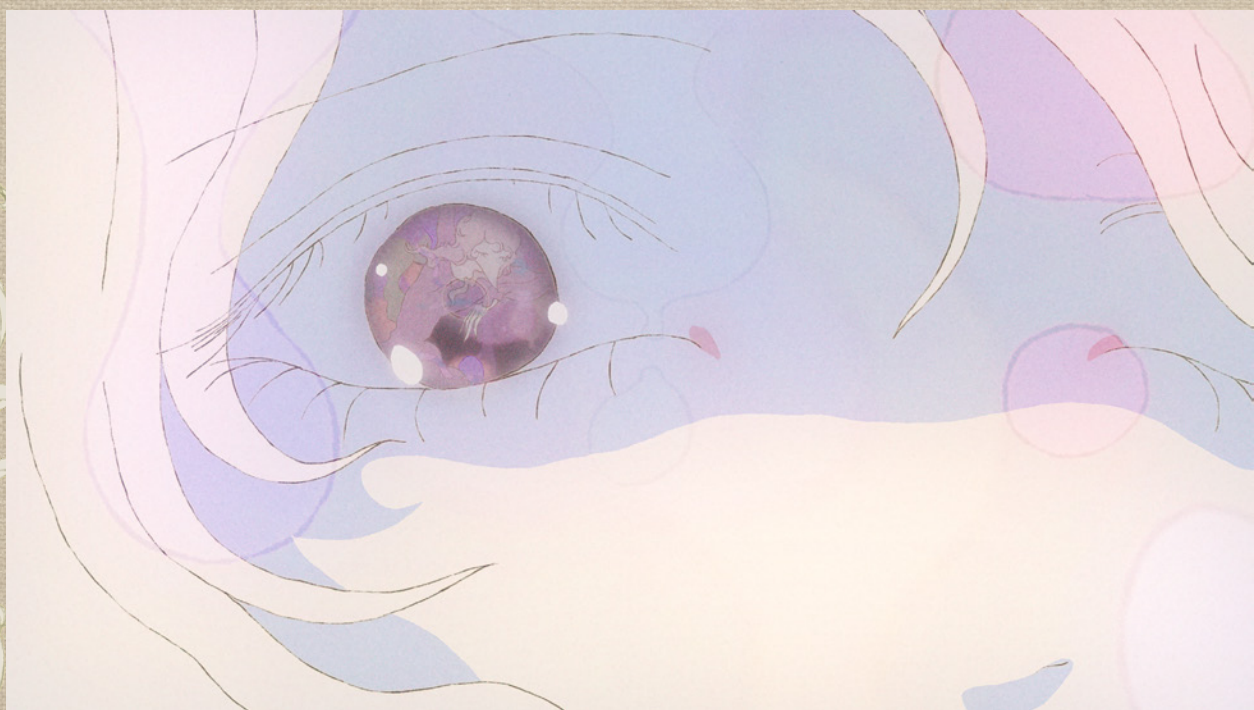
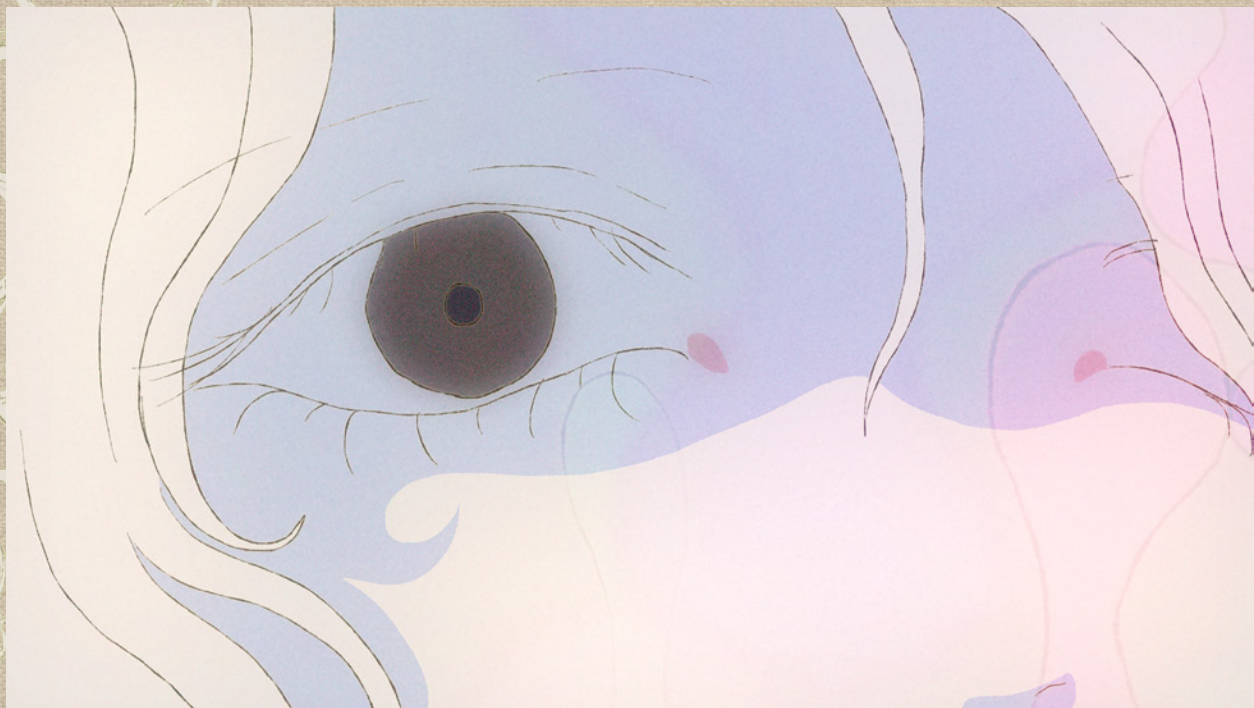




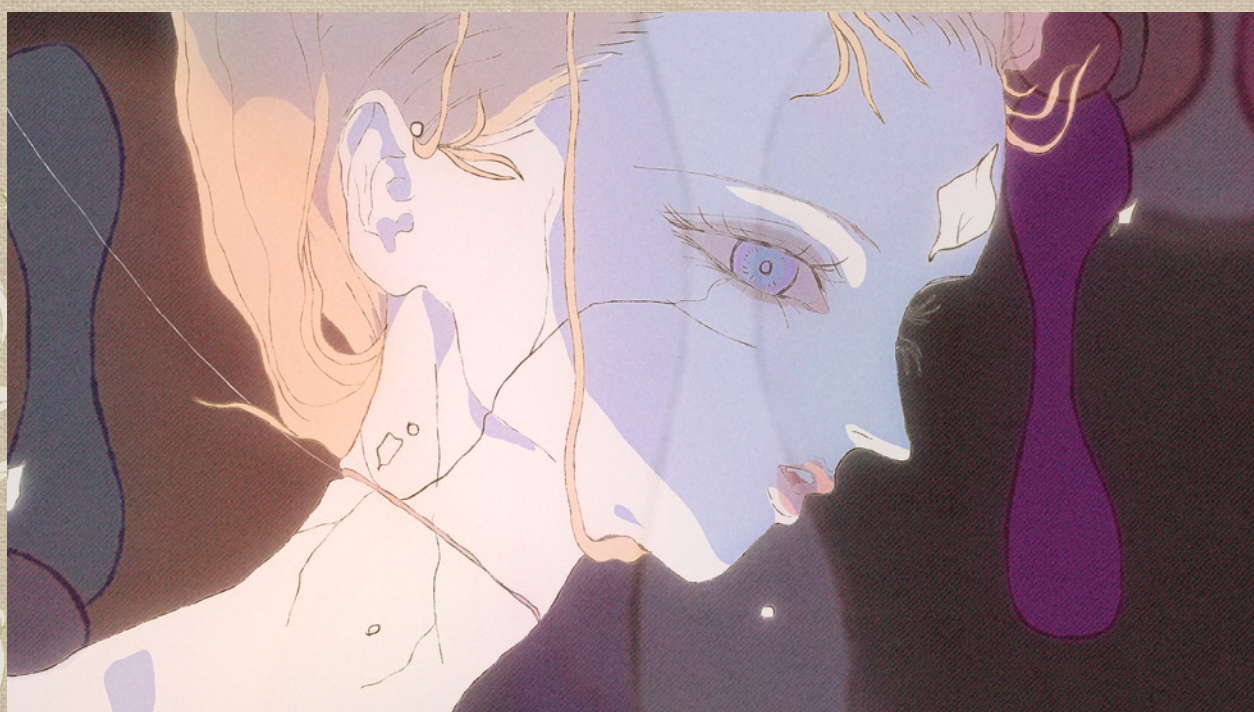
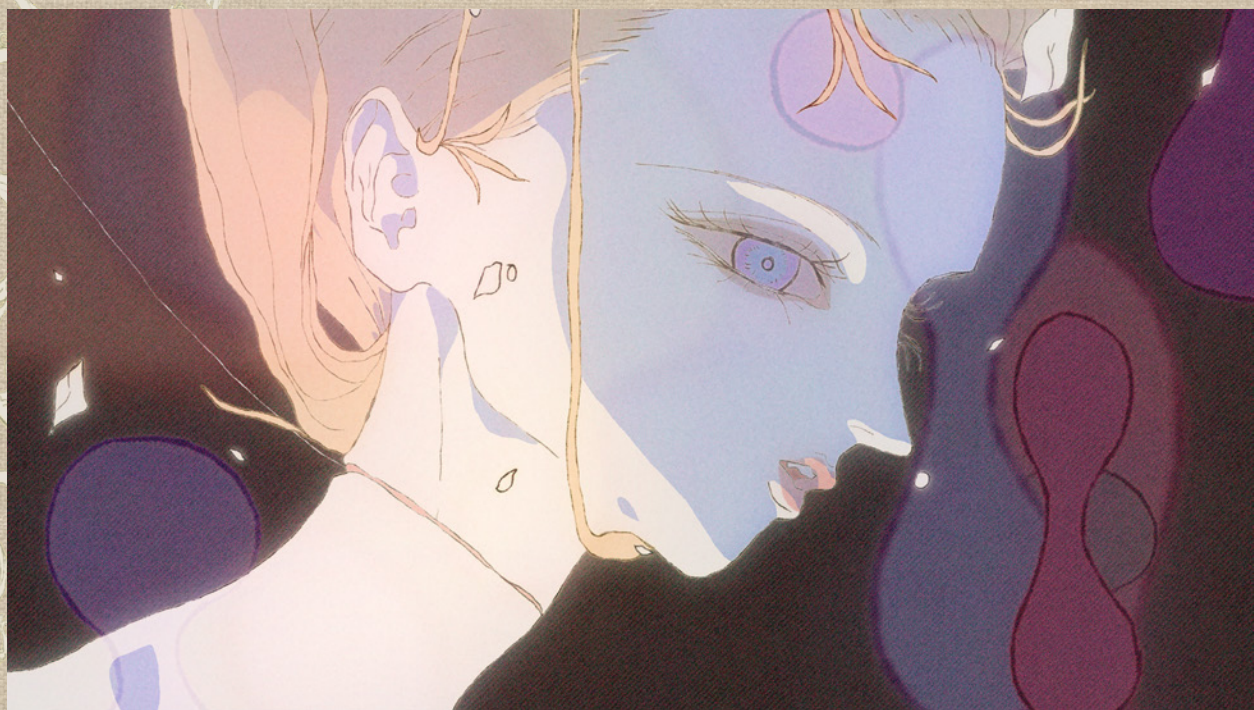


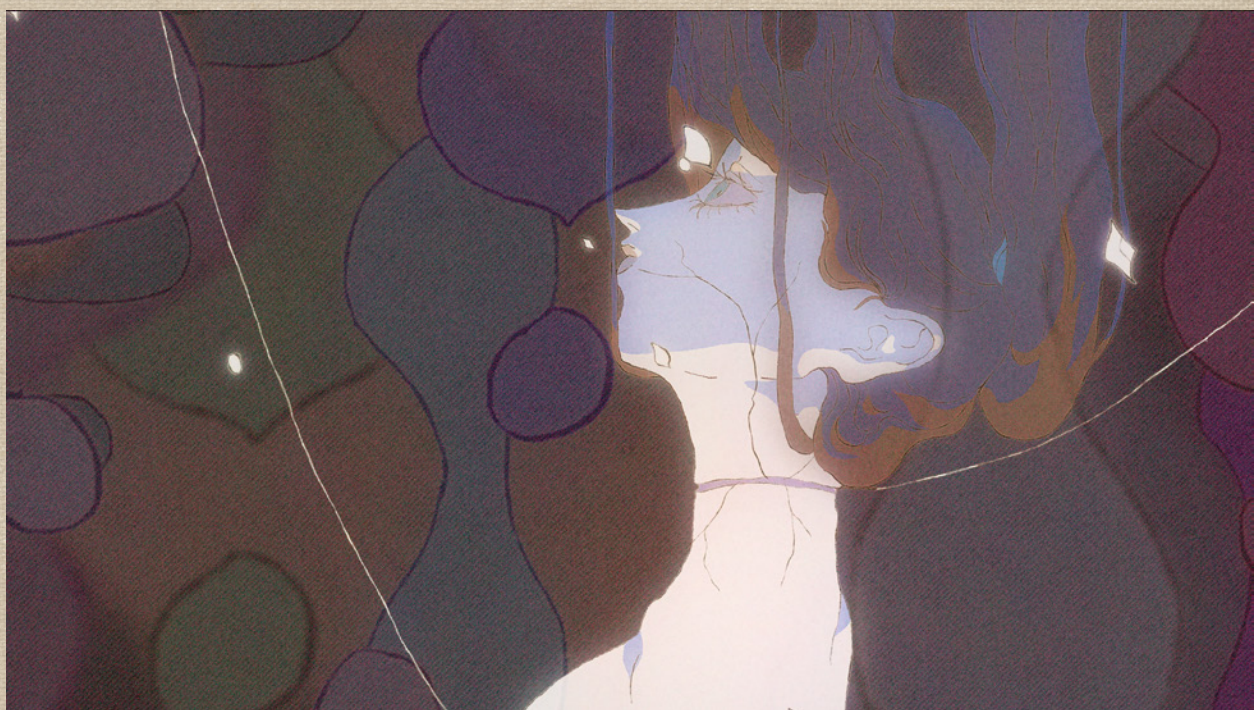


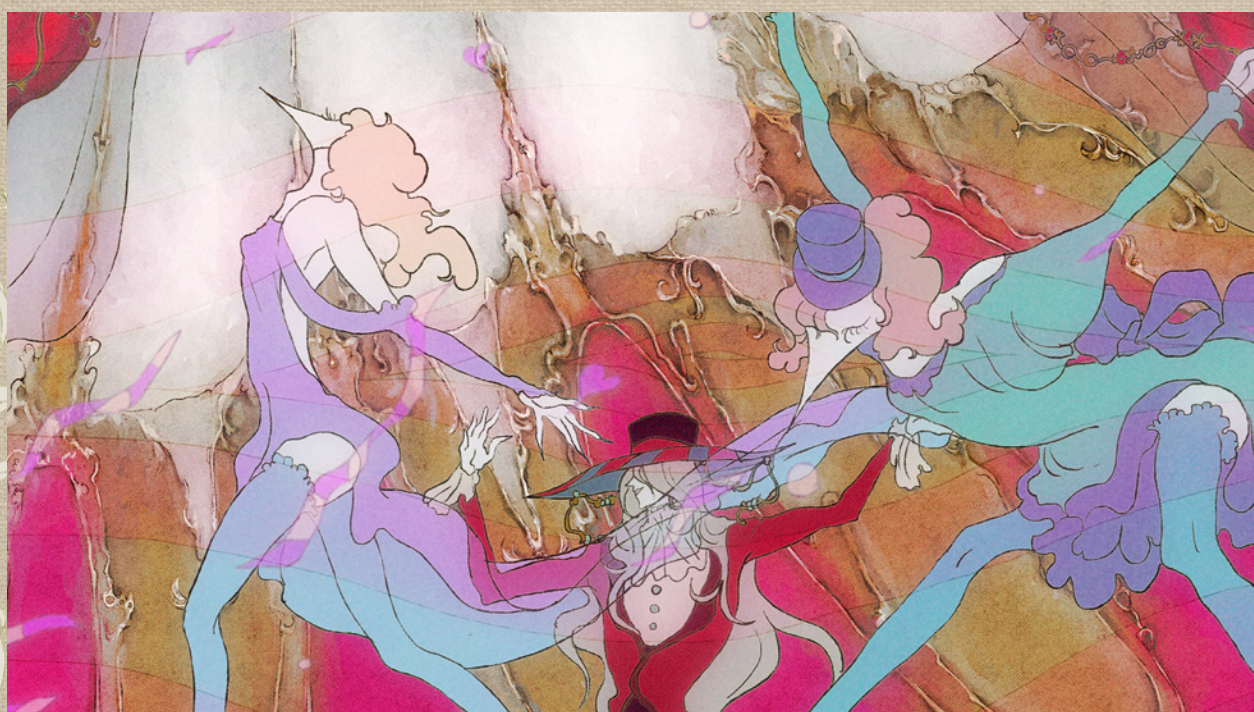


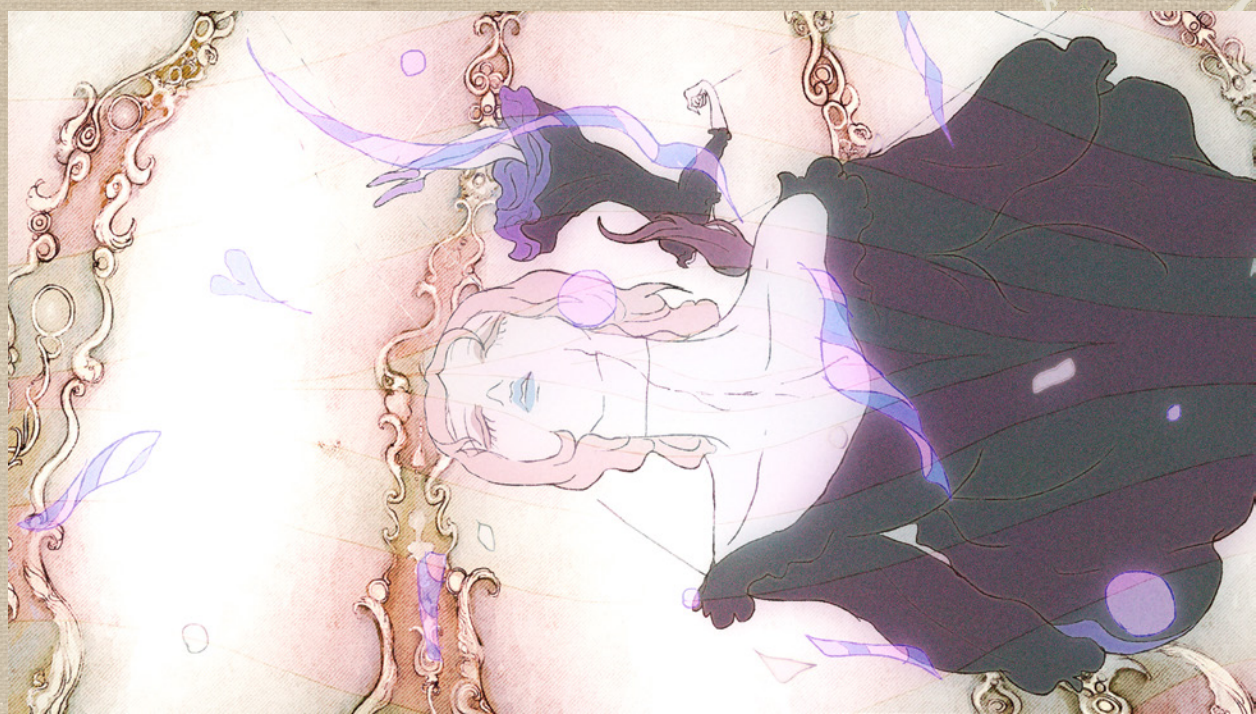


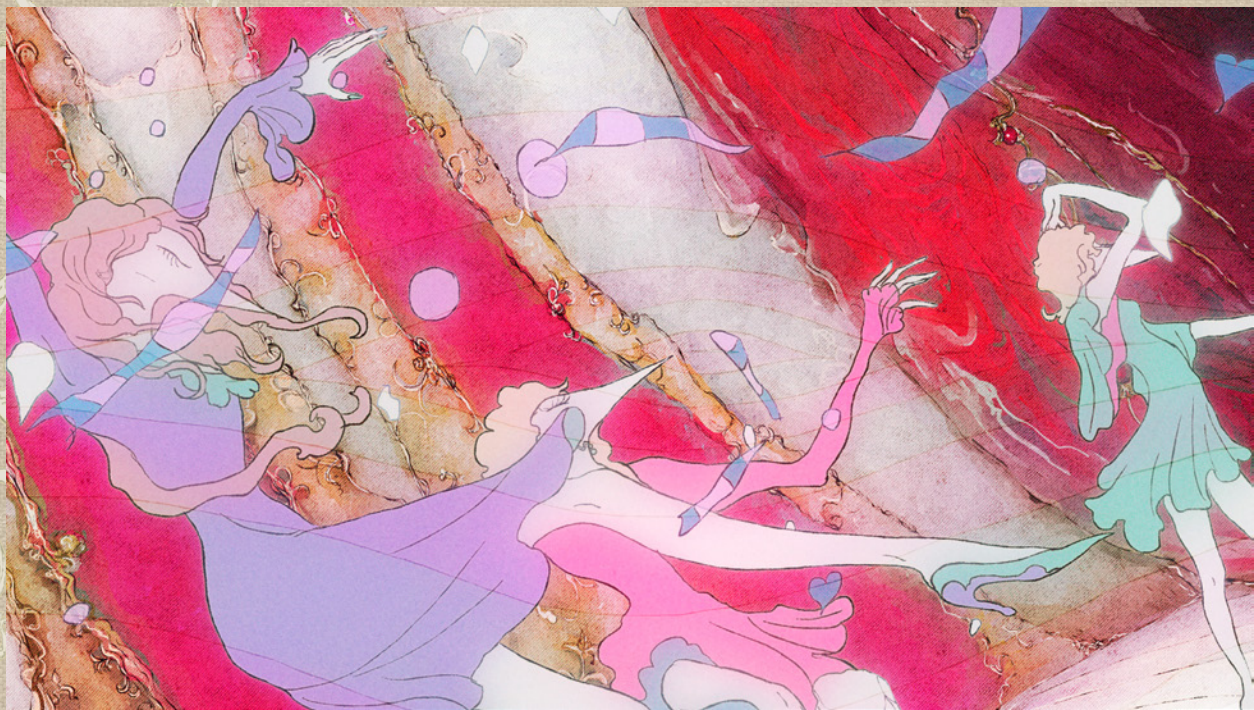




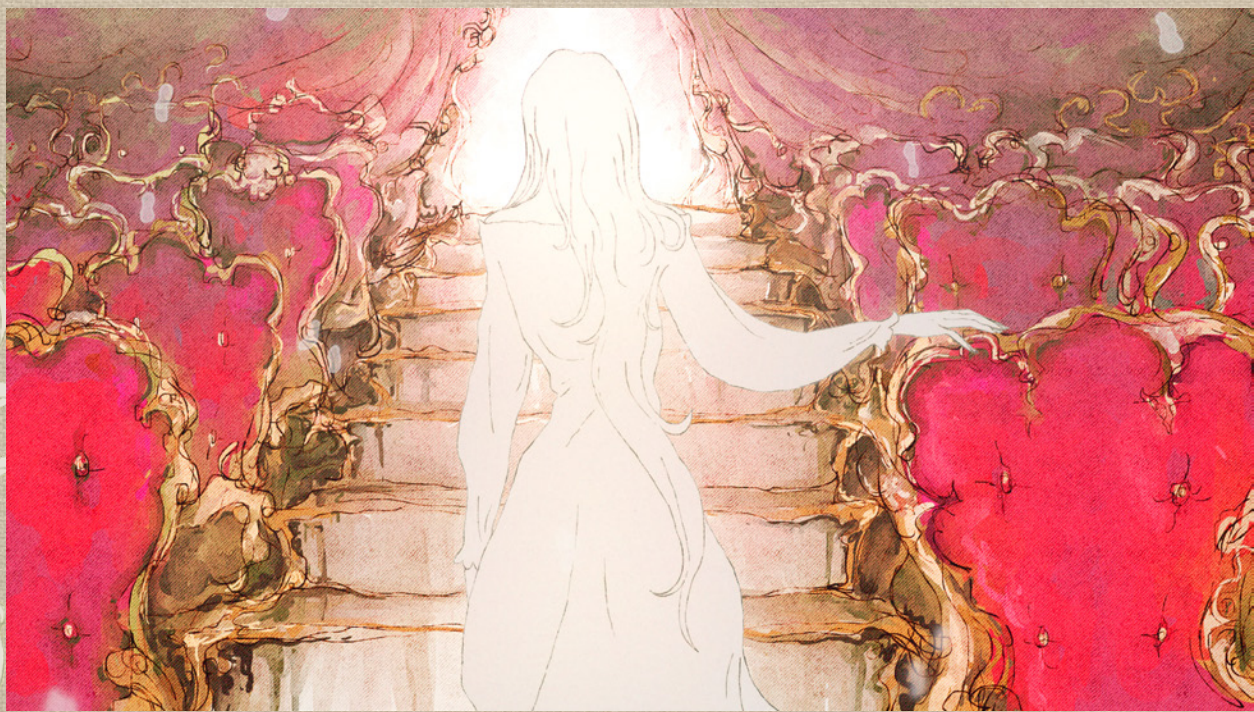
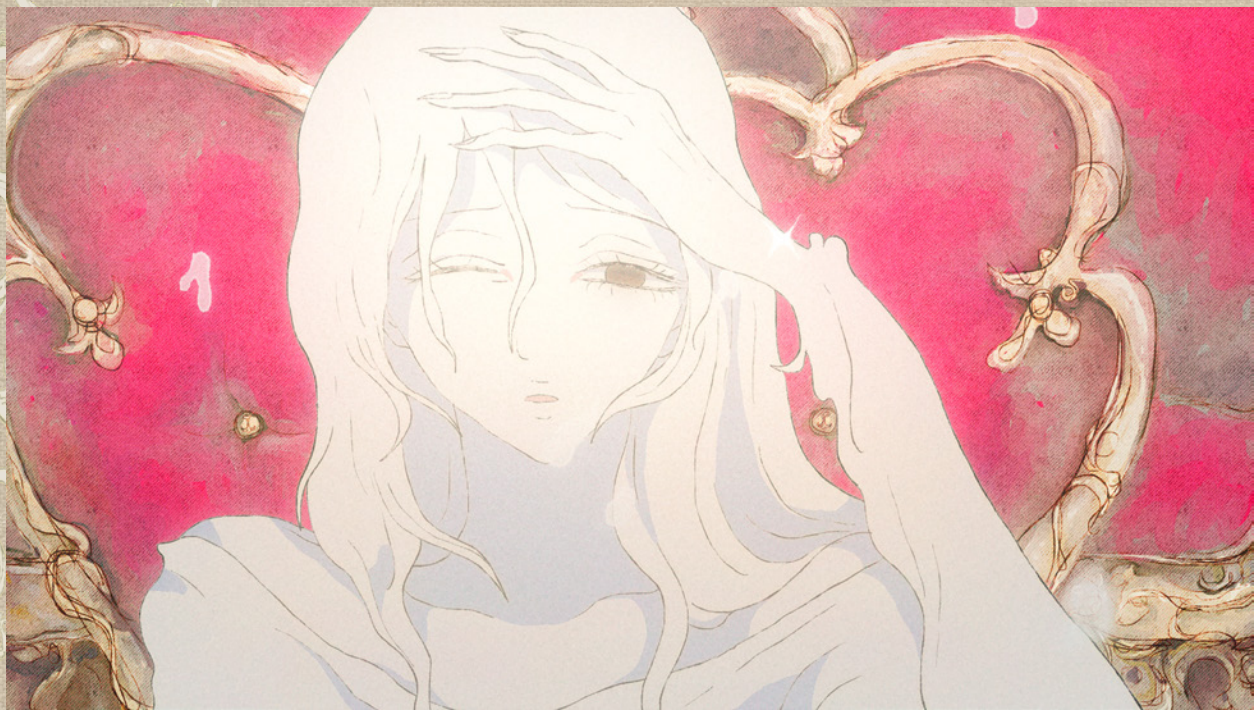


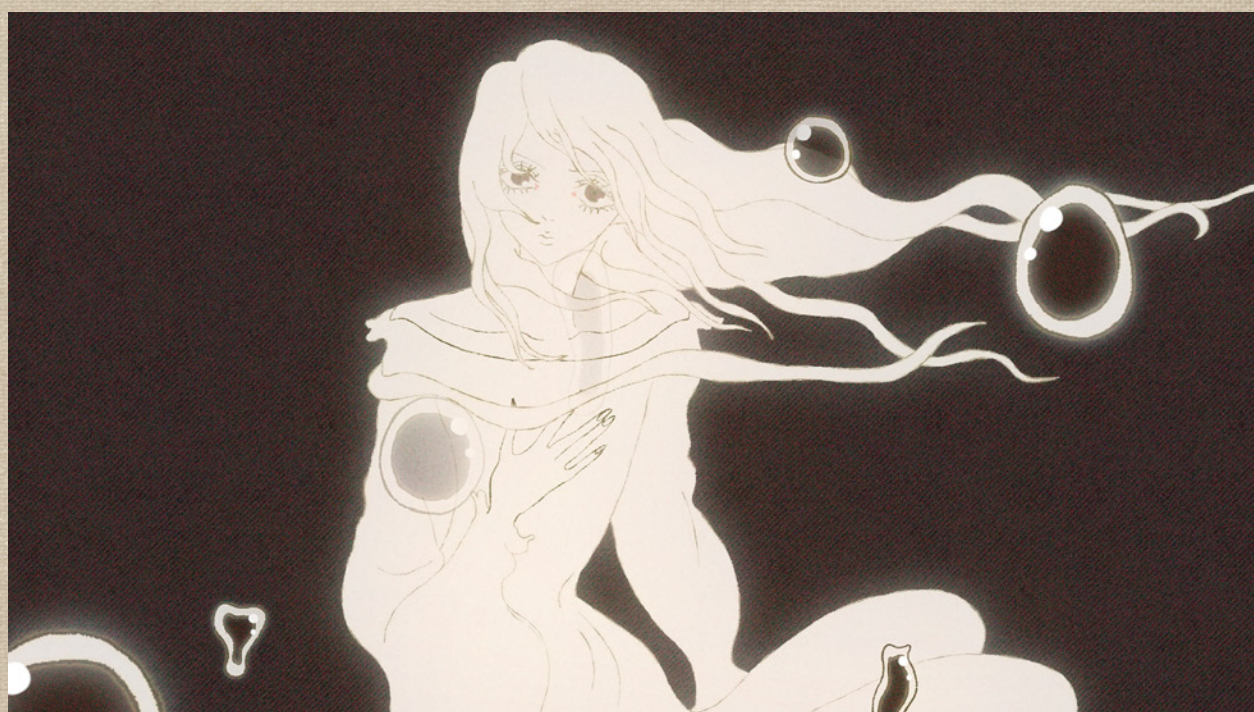


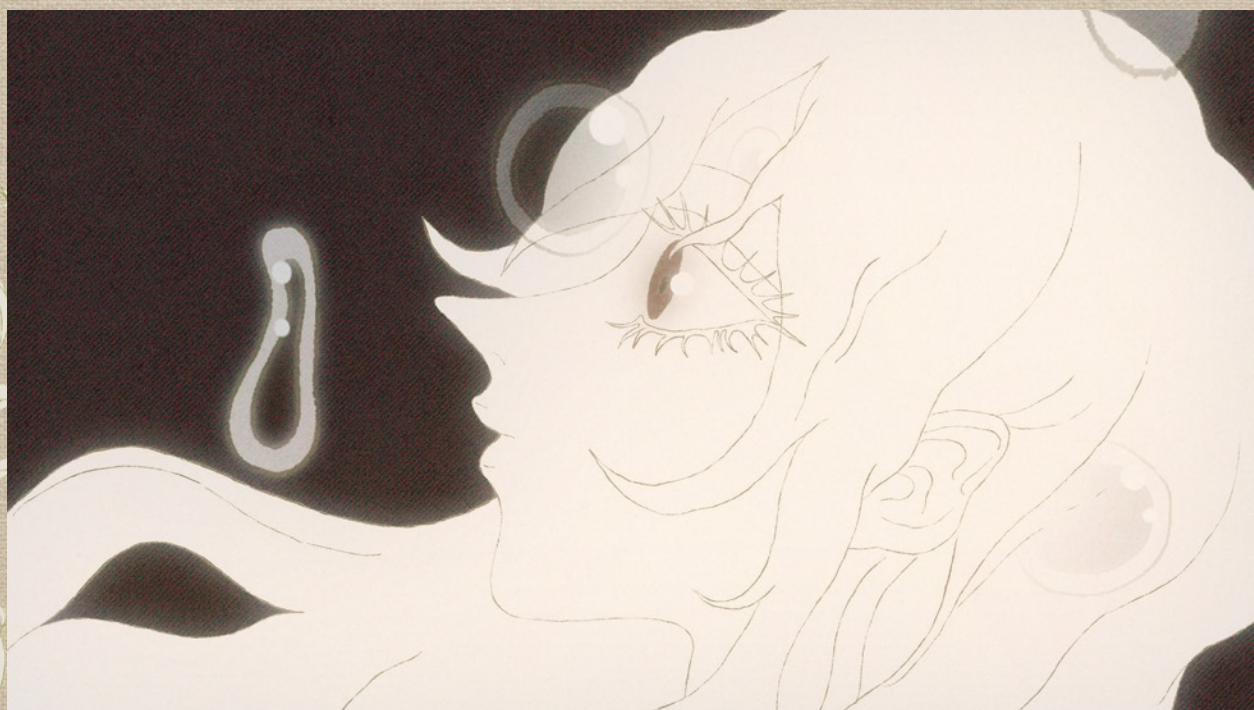


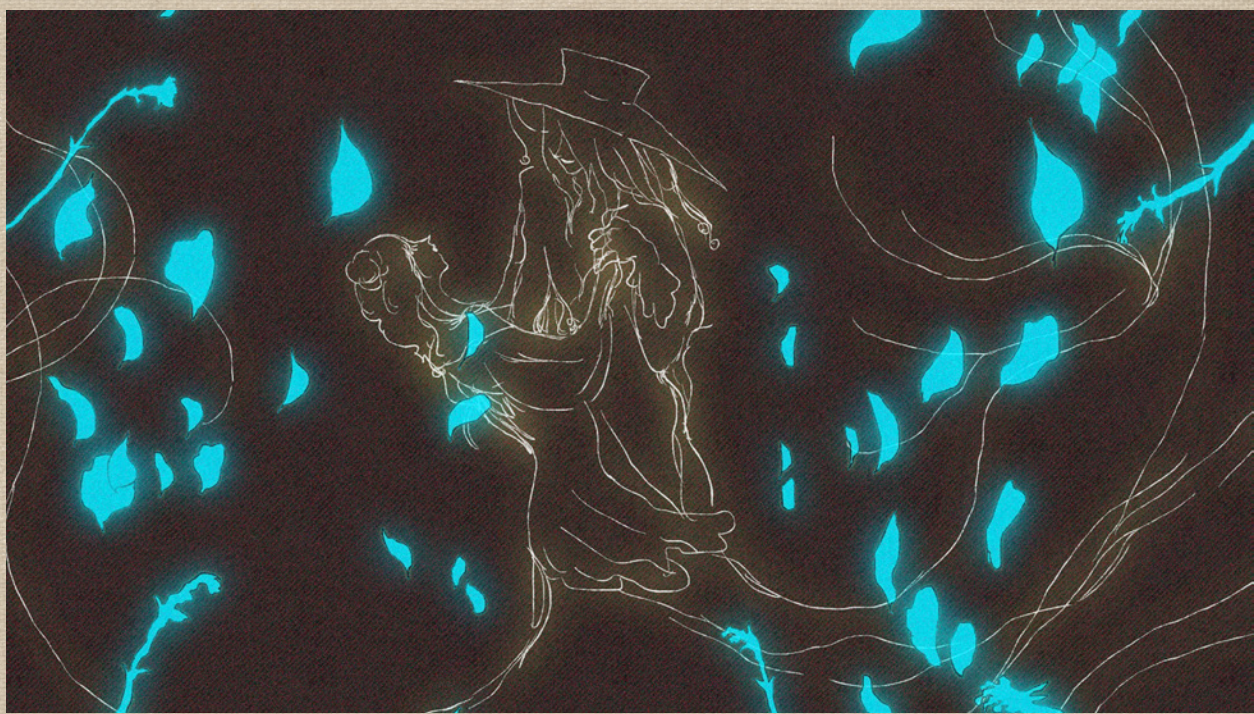
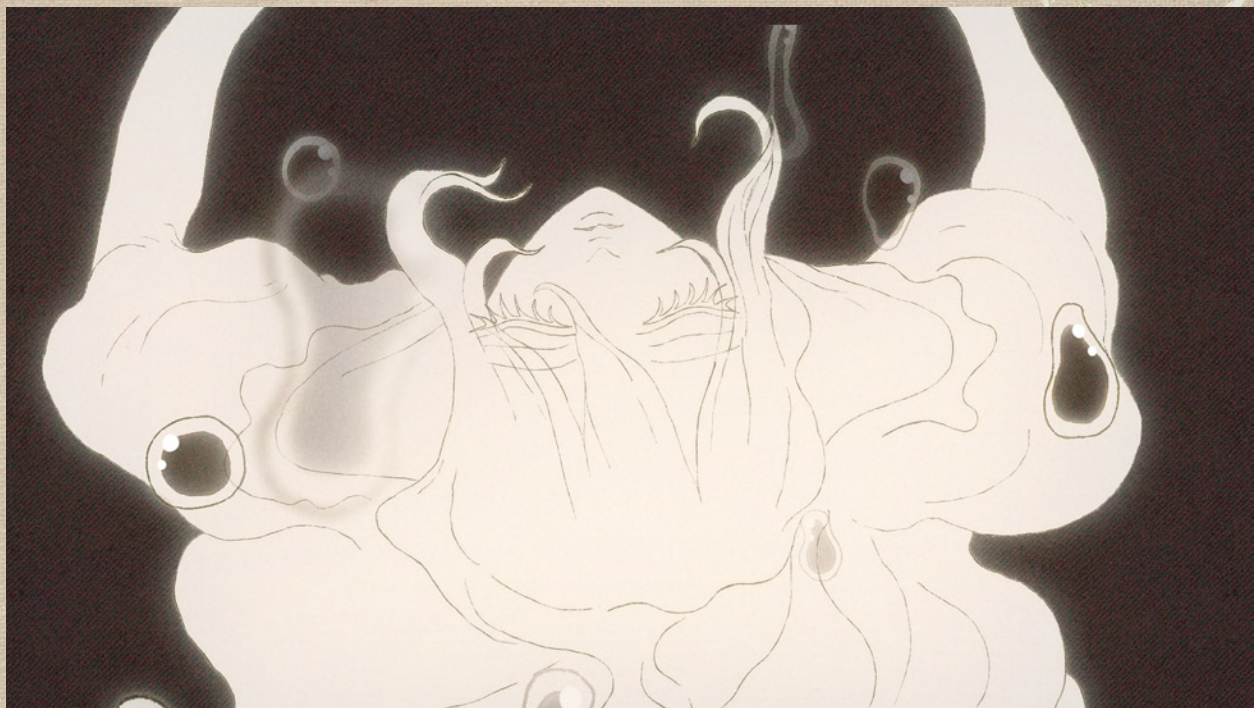


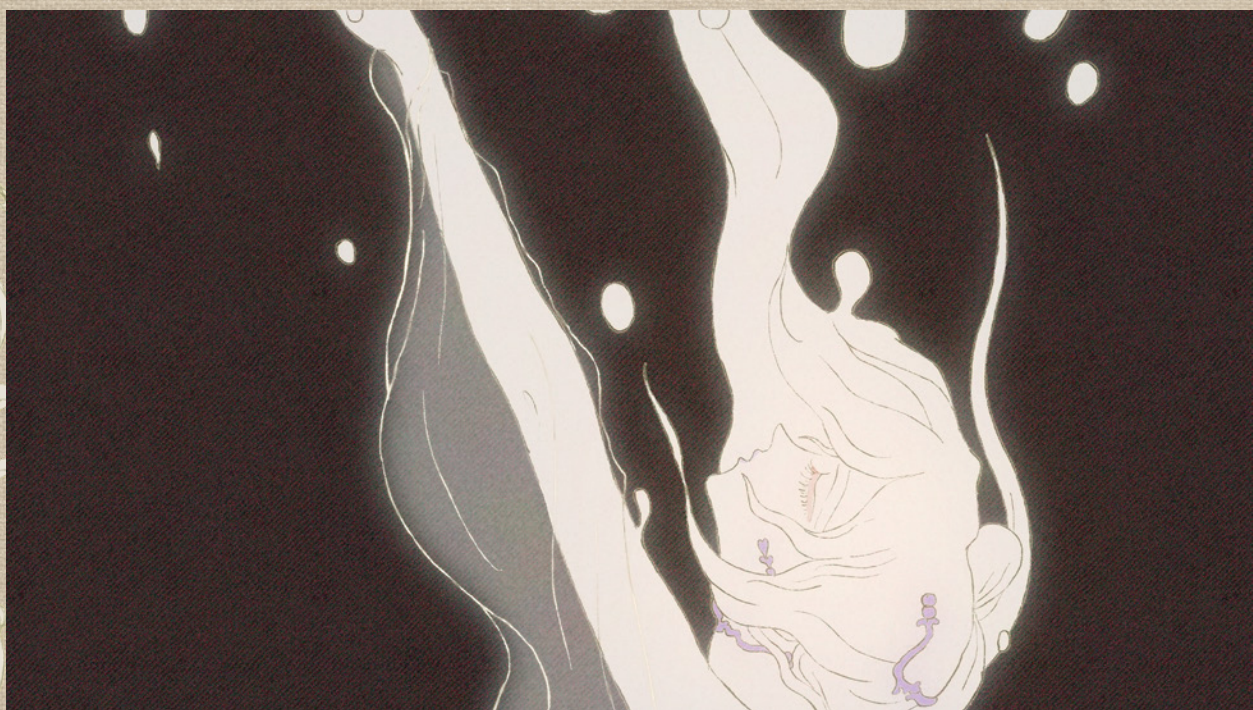
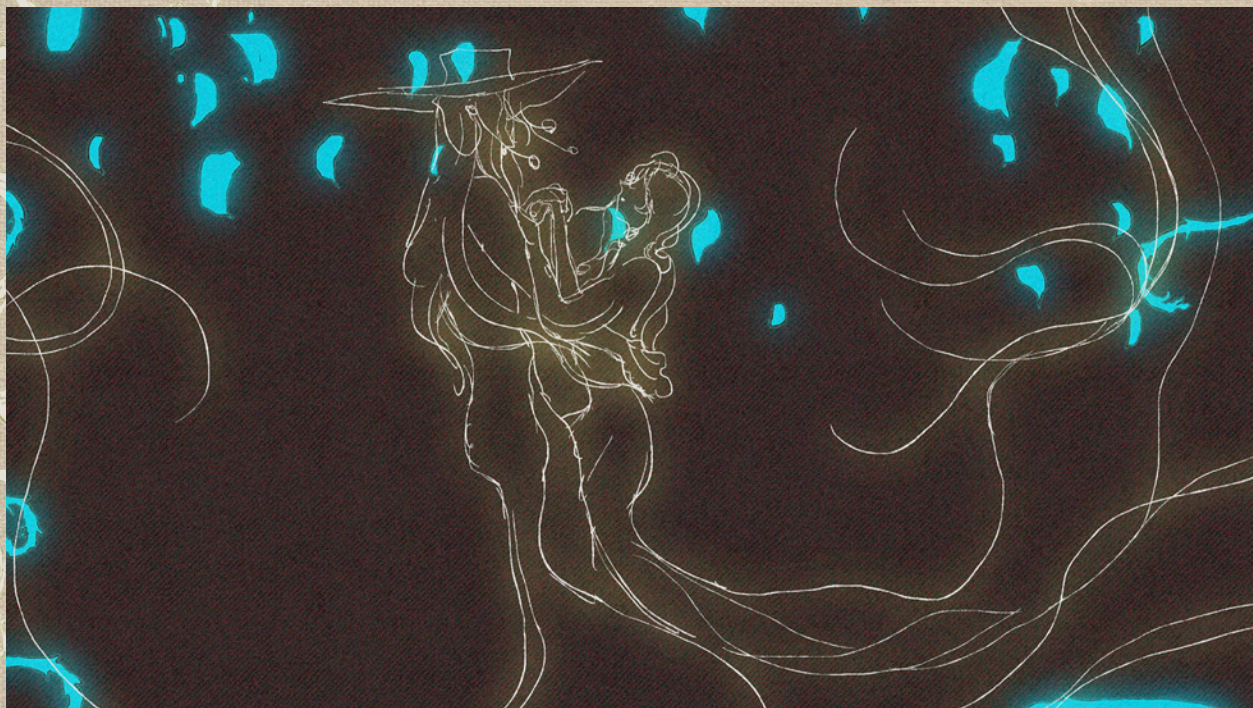




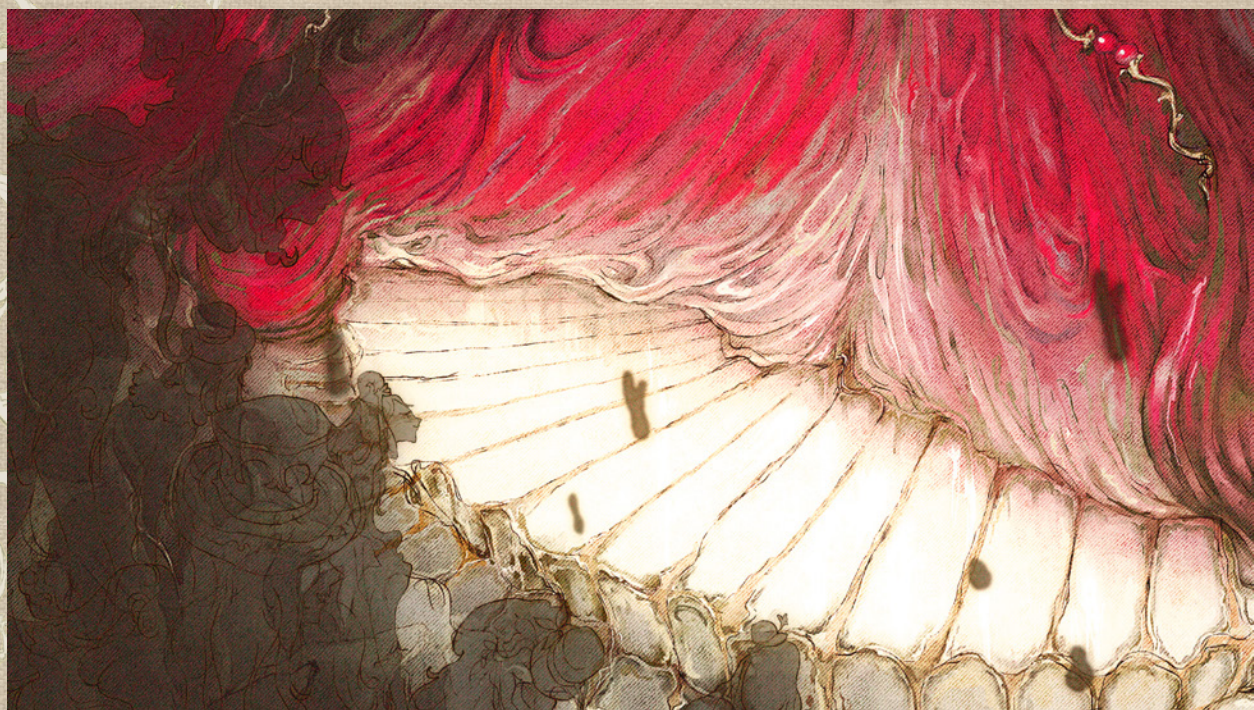


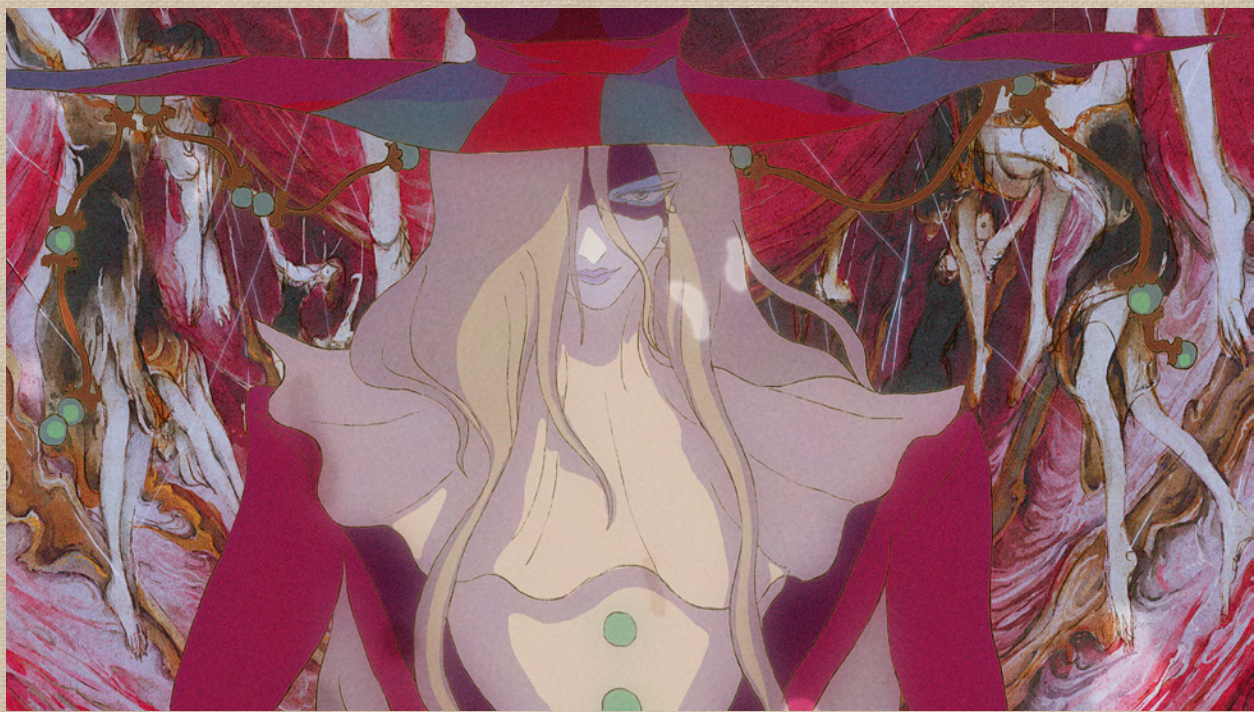


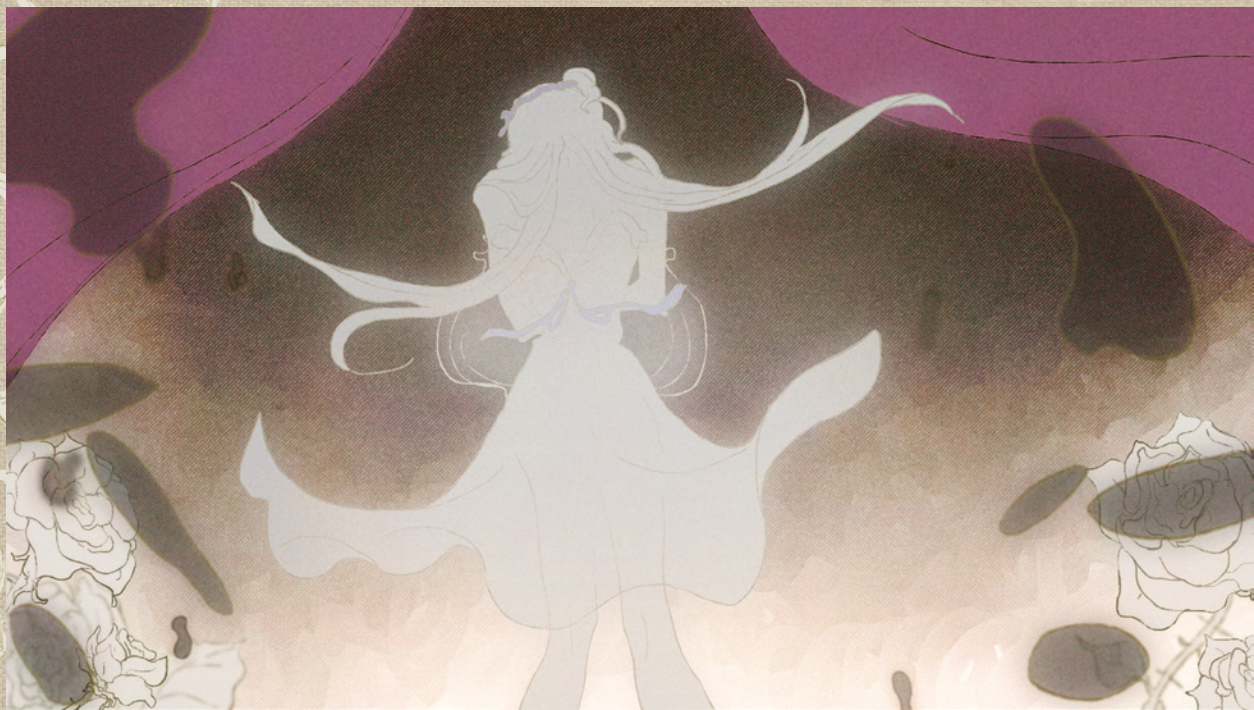


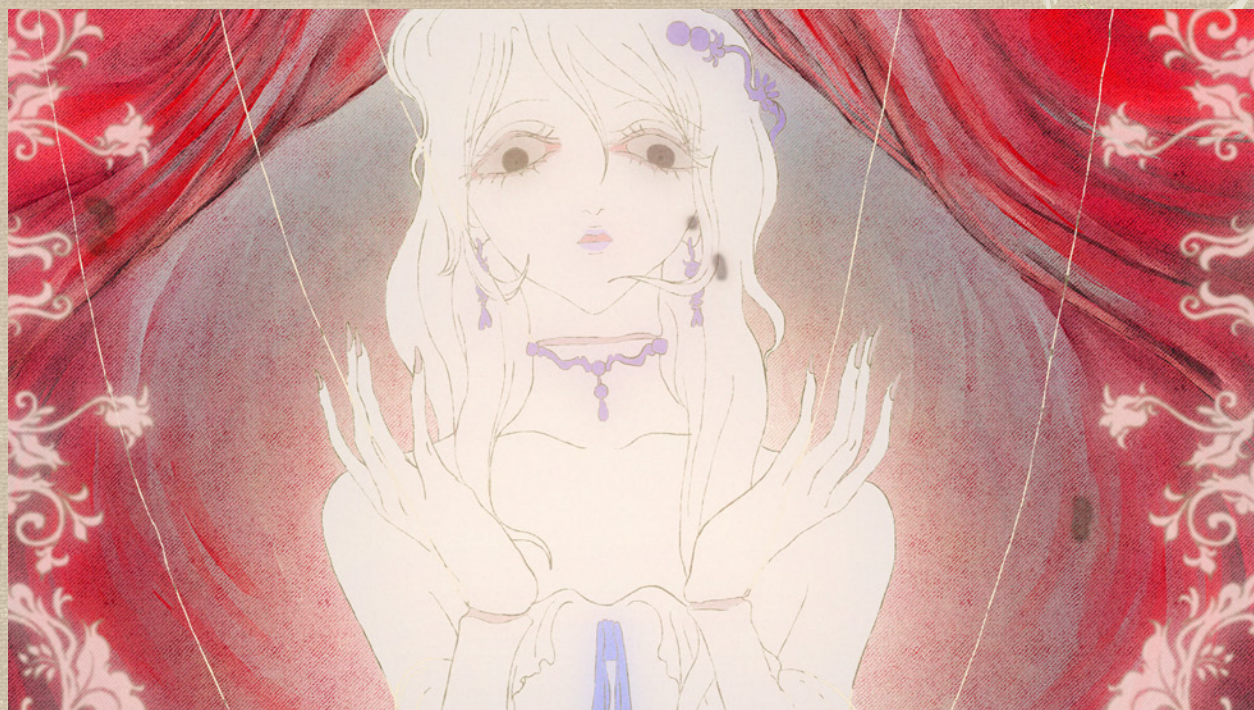






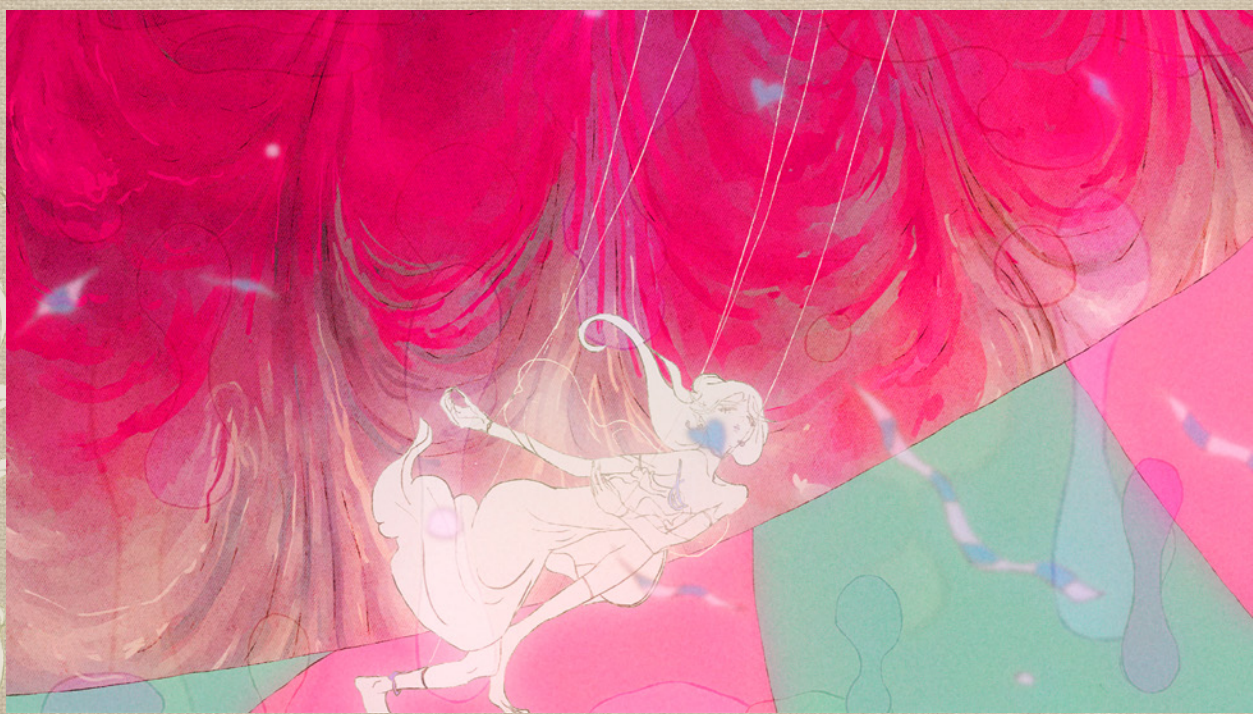






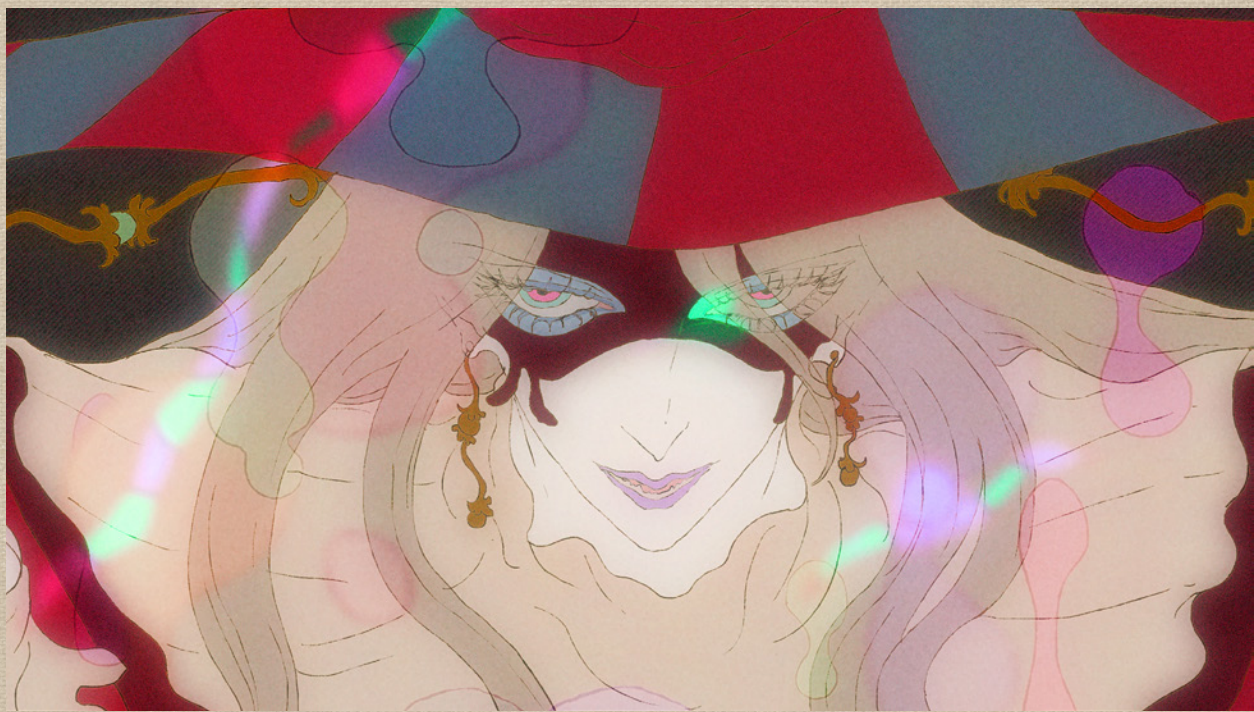


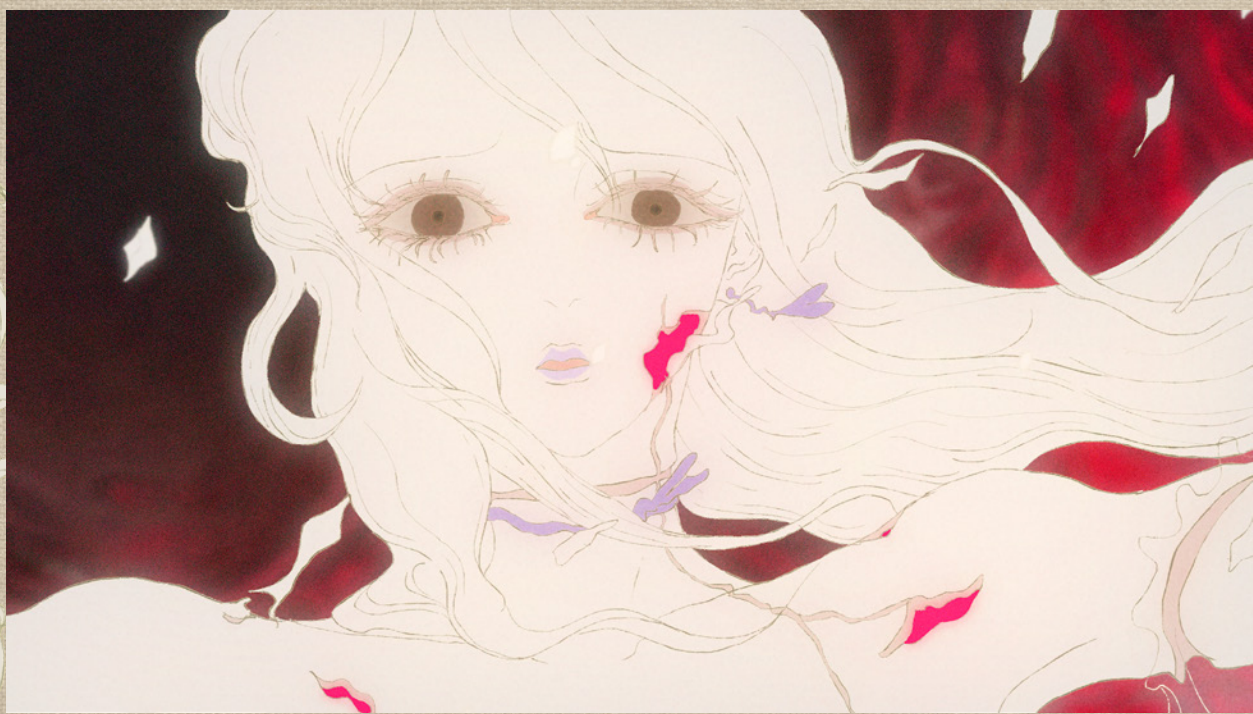


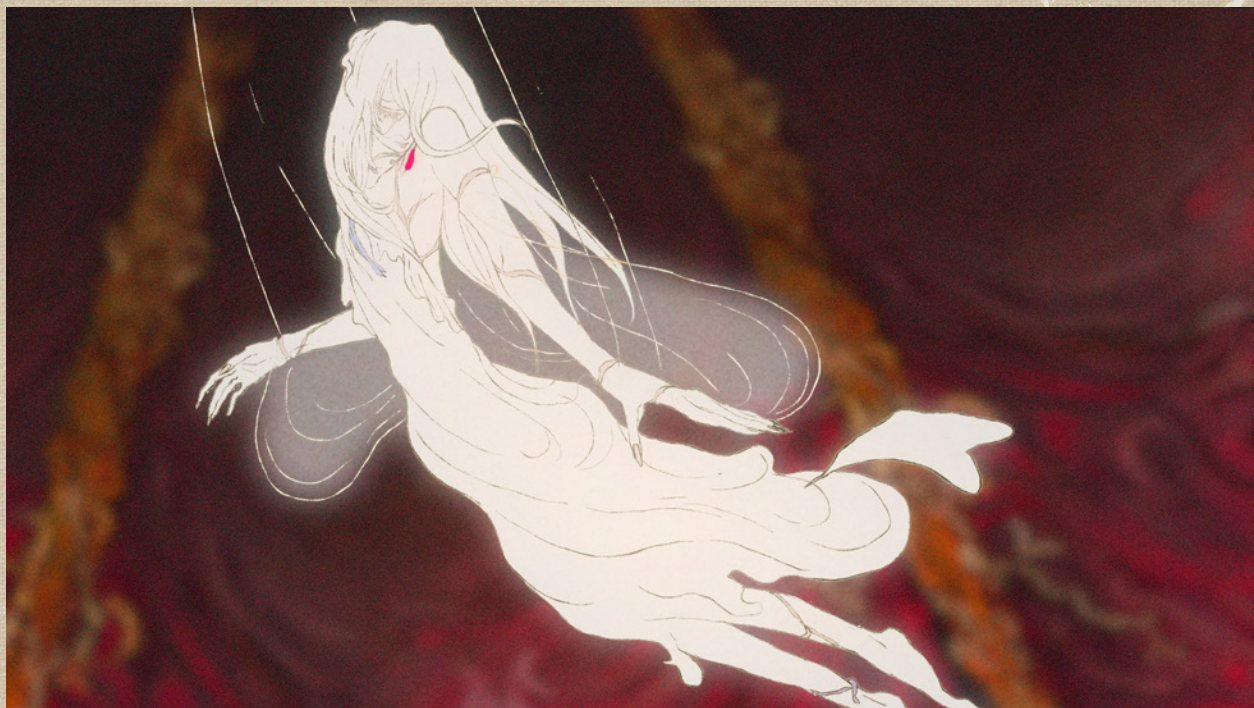




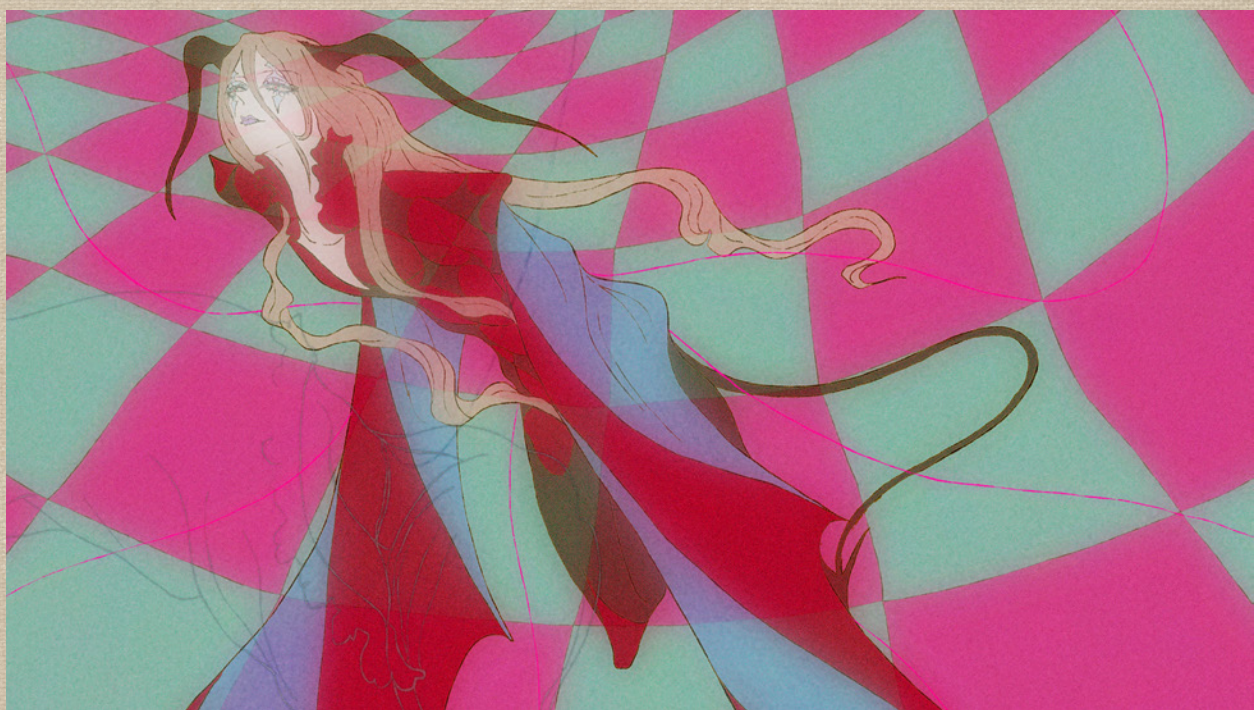


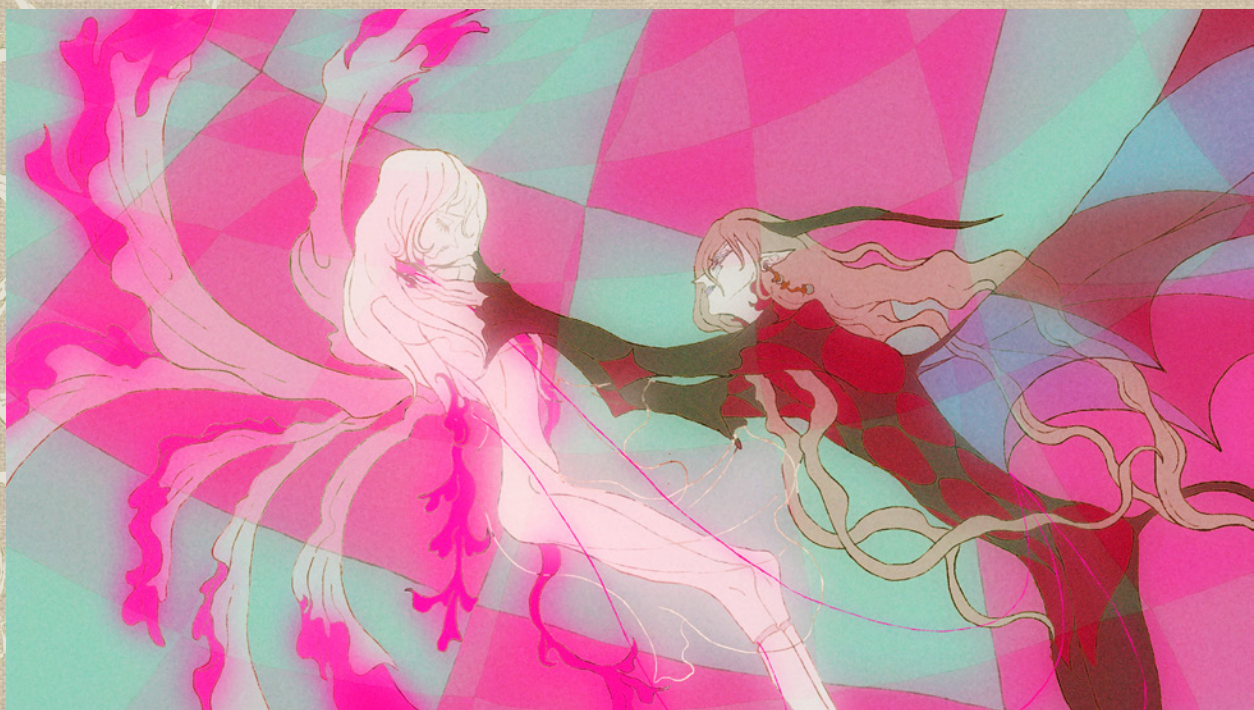




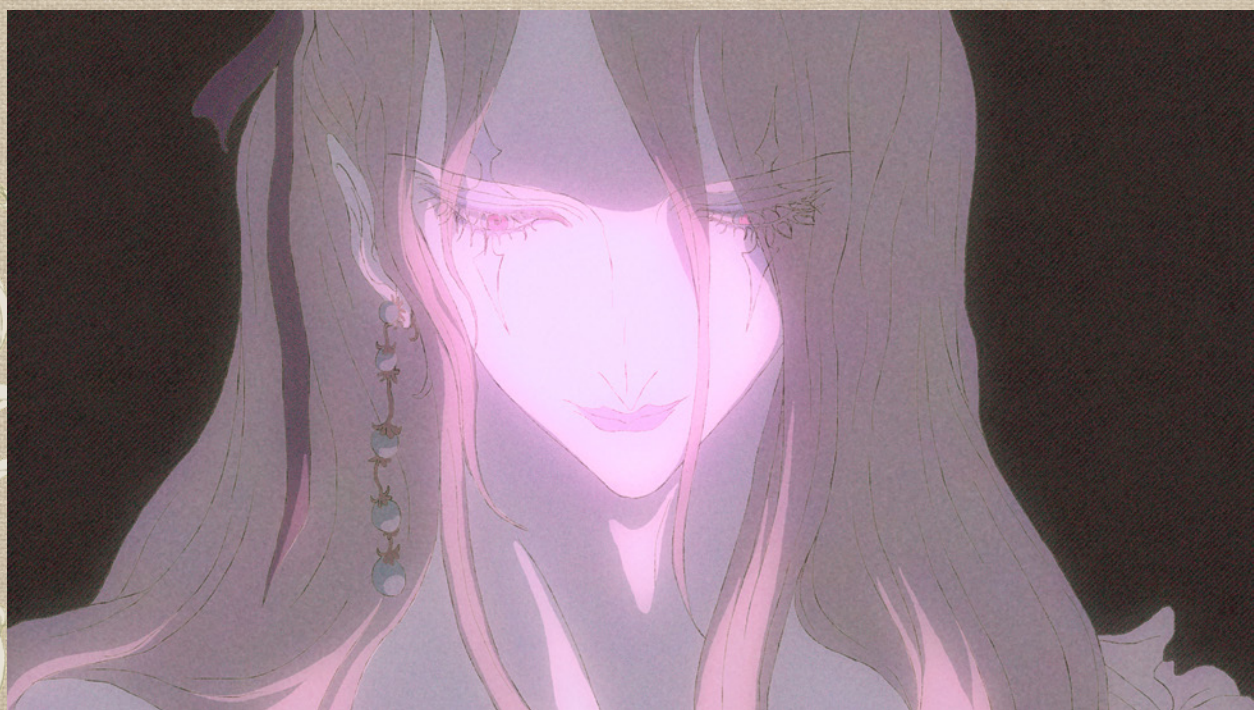
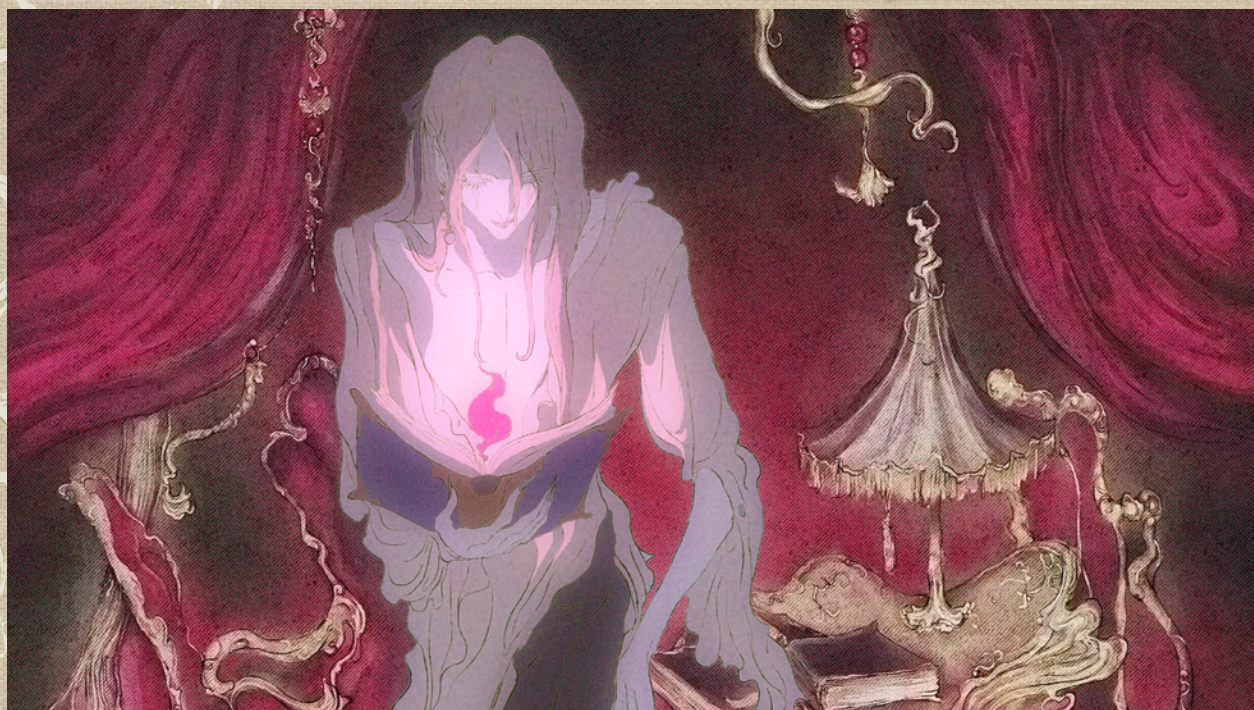














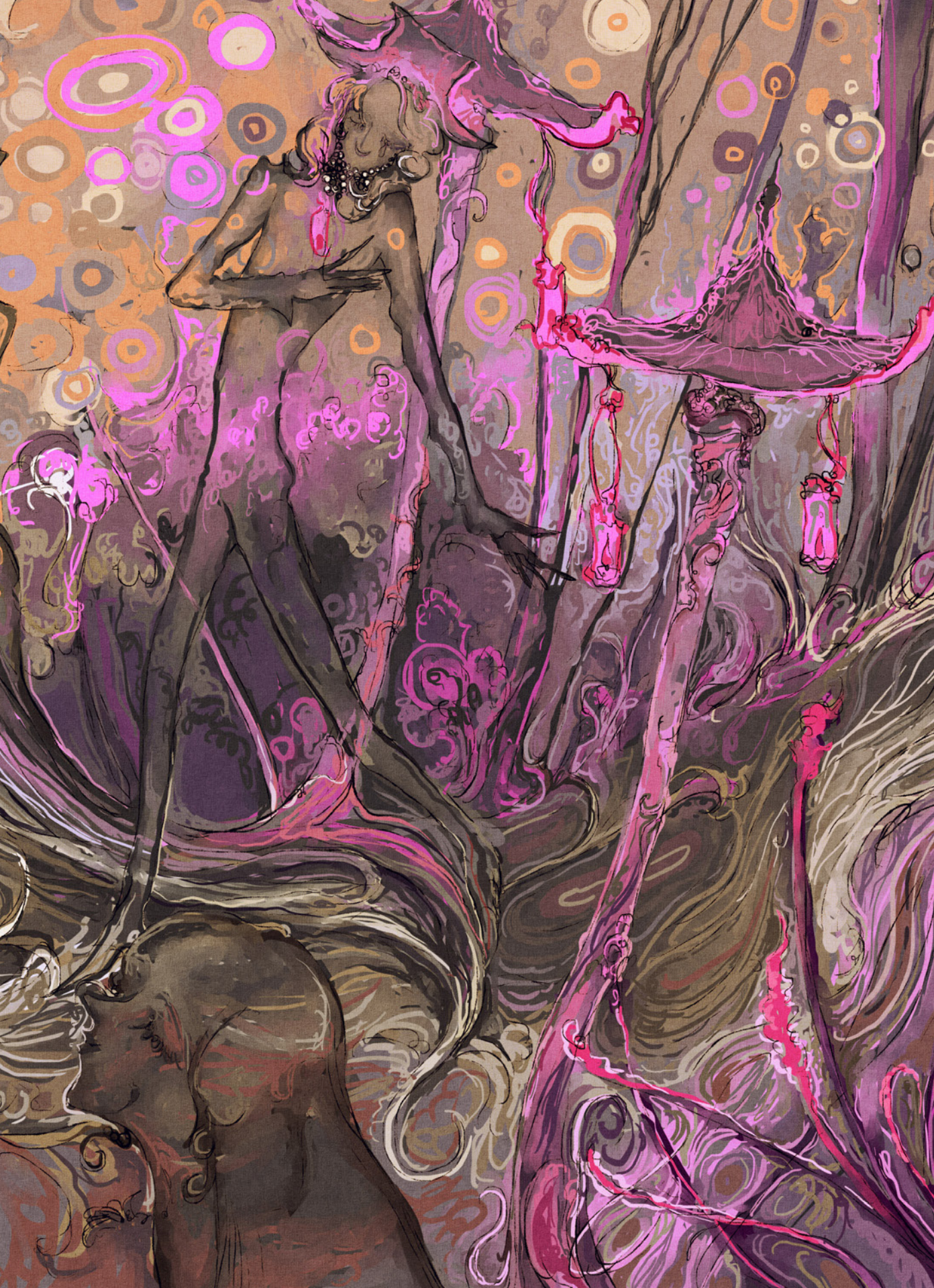




ABOVE: *Blue Moon*
LEFT: *Overture*

FOLLOWING PAGE:
Casting Shadows







White





Master's Web



ABOVE: *Charming Growls*

FOLLOWING PAGE: *When the Children Are Waking Up*



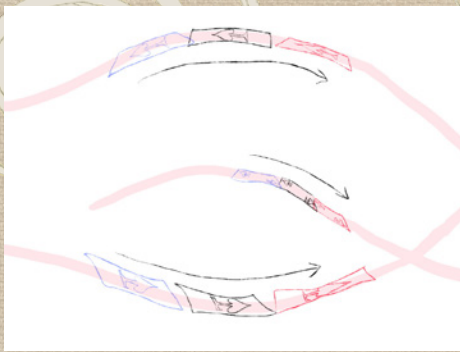




Dance with the Flowers



Dancing with the "You" I do not Know



There is a lot of flying stuff in the animation. I always just draw a direction line to where it is flowing and do the usual animation process.

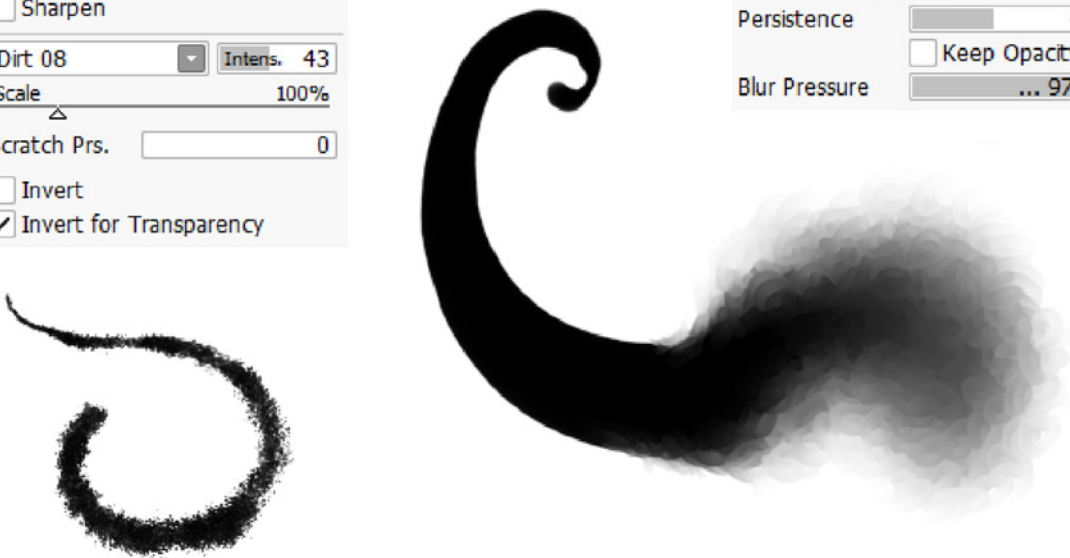
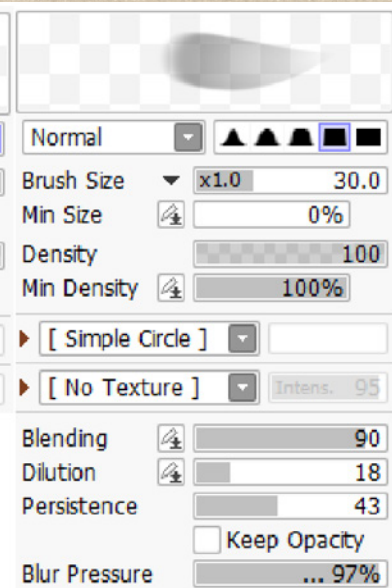
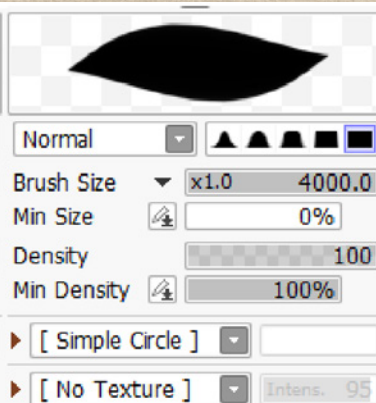
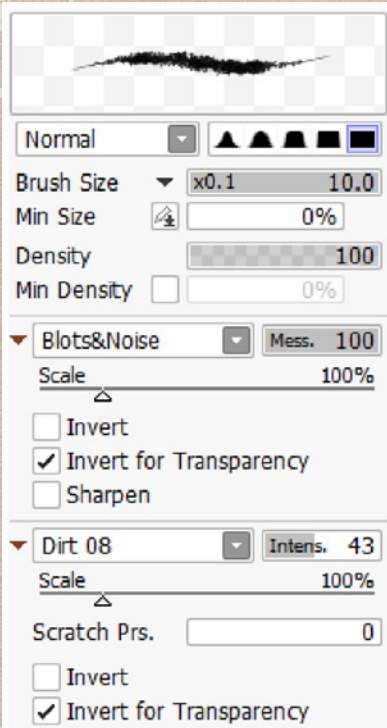


This is the final palette used for coloring all the frames you see in the animation.

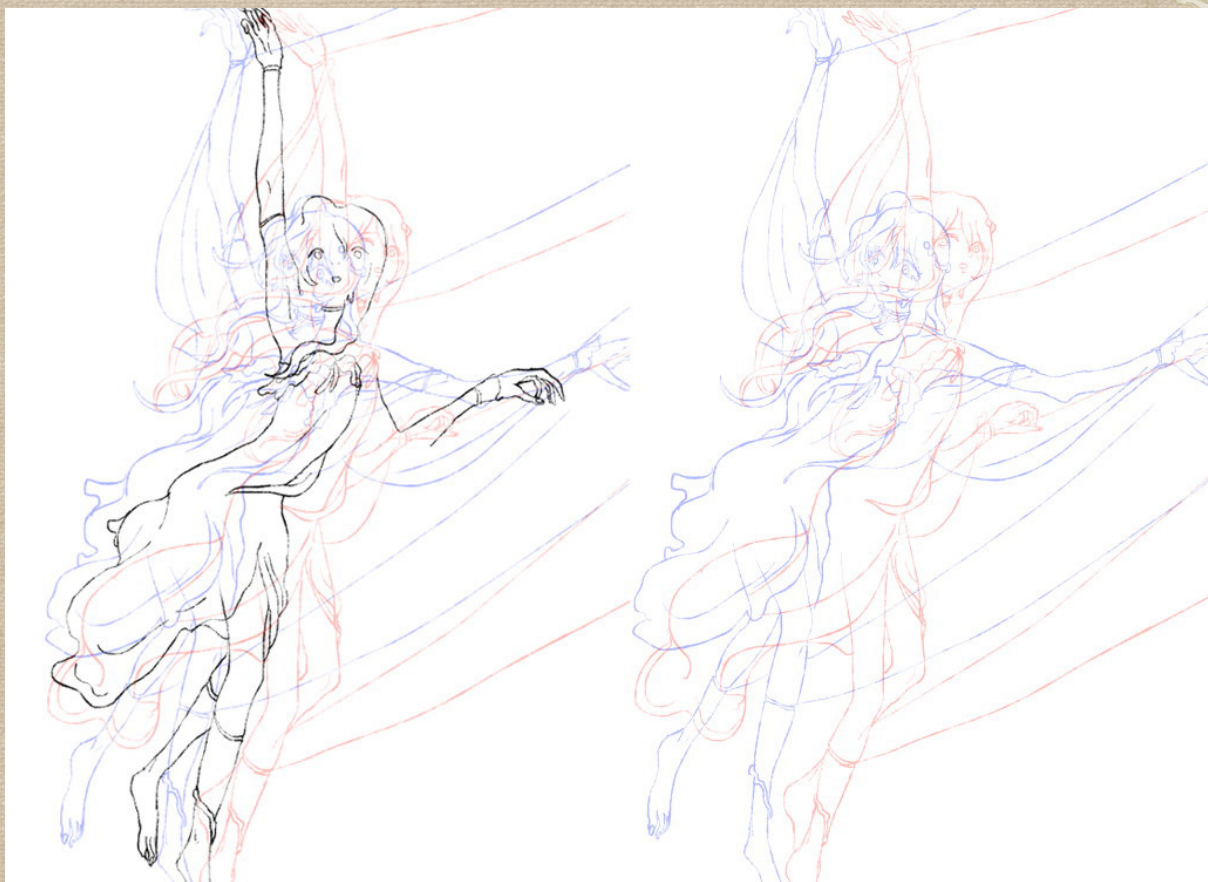
PENCIL LINEWORK & SKETCHES

BRUSH FILLING IN COLORS

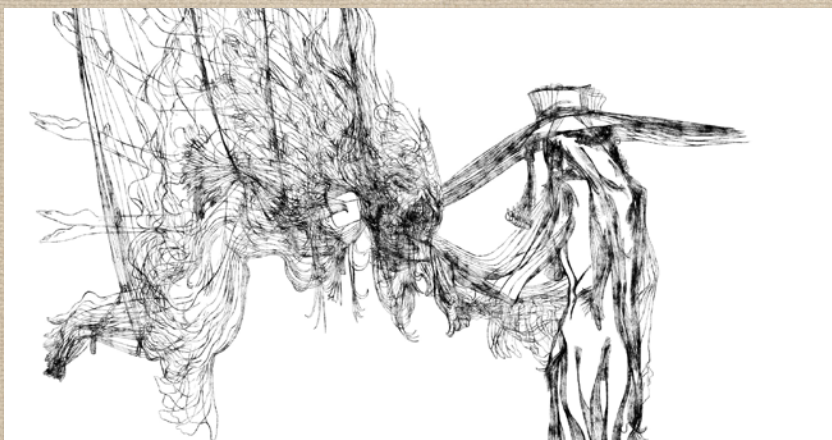
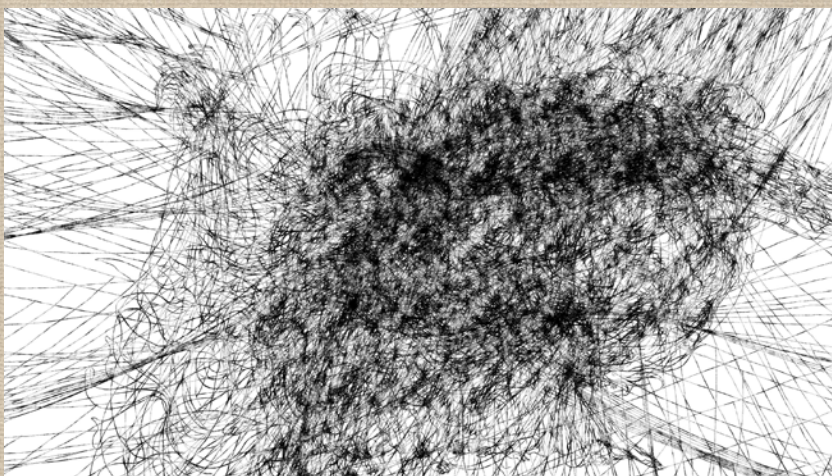
BLENDED FOR ILLUSTRATIONS & BACKGROUNDS

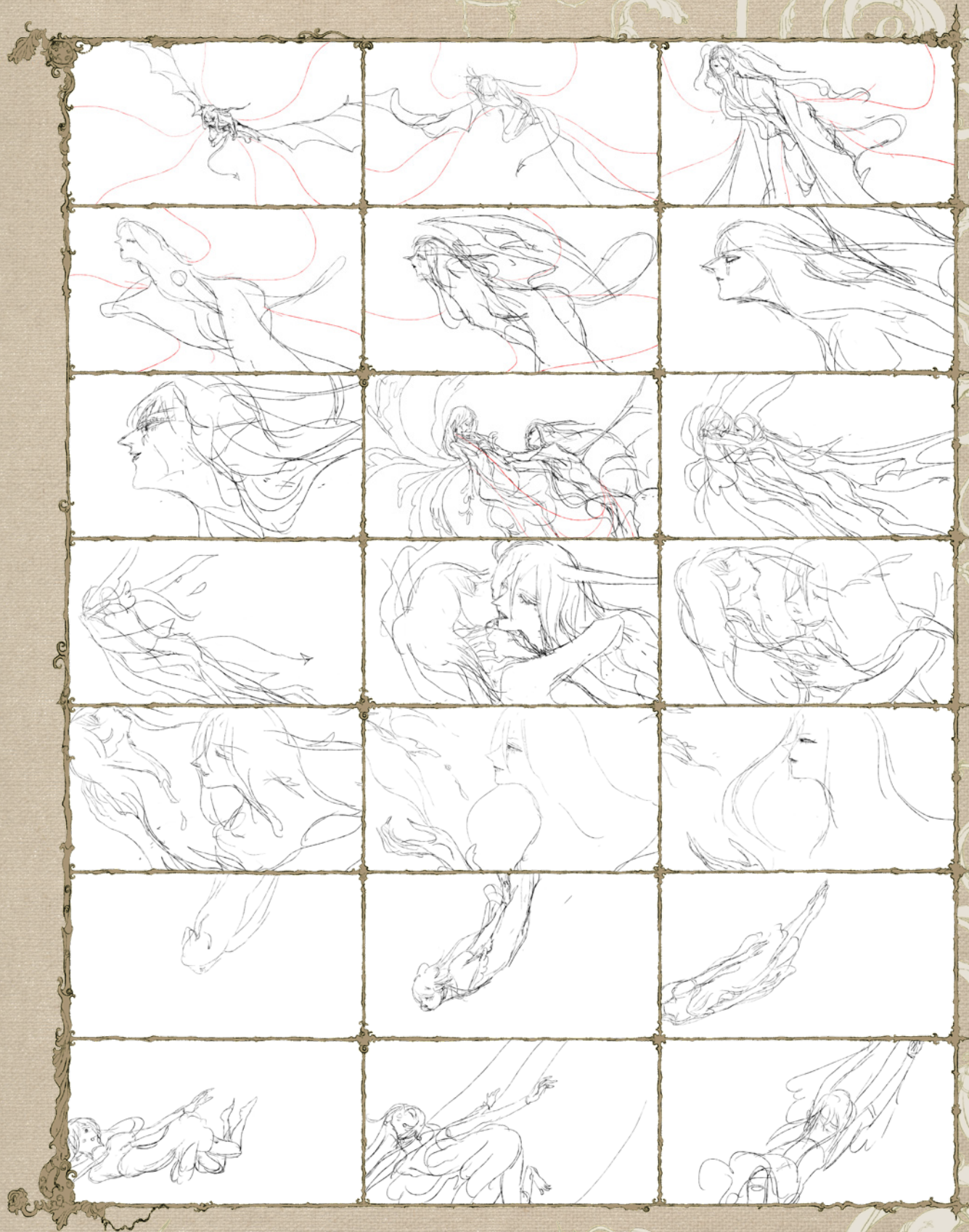


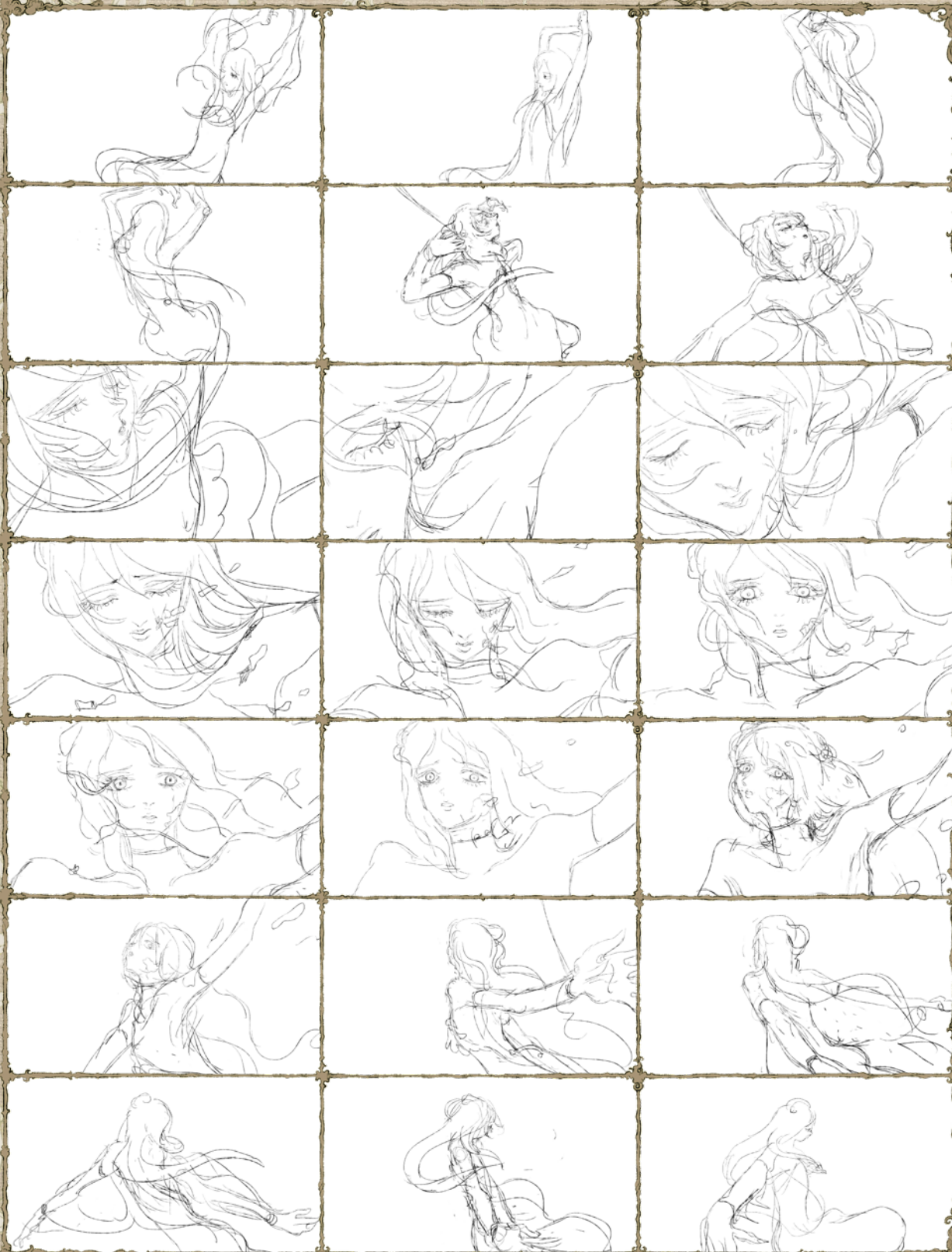
*All of the art you see in the animation was done with these 3 brushes
I used in Paint Tool SAI vers. 2.*

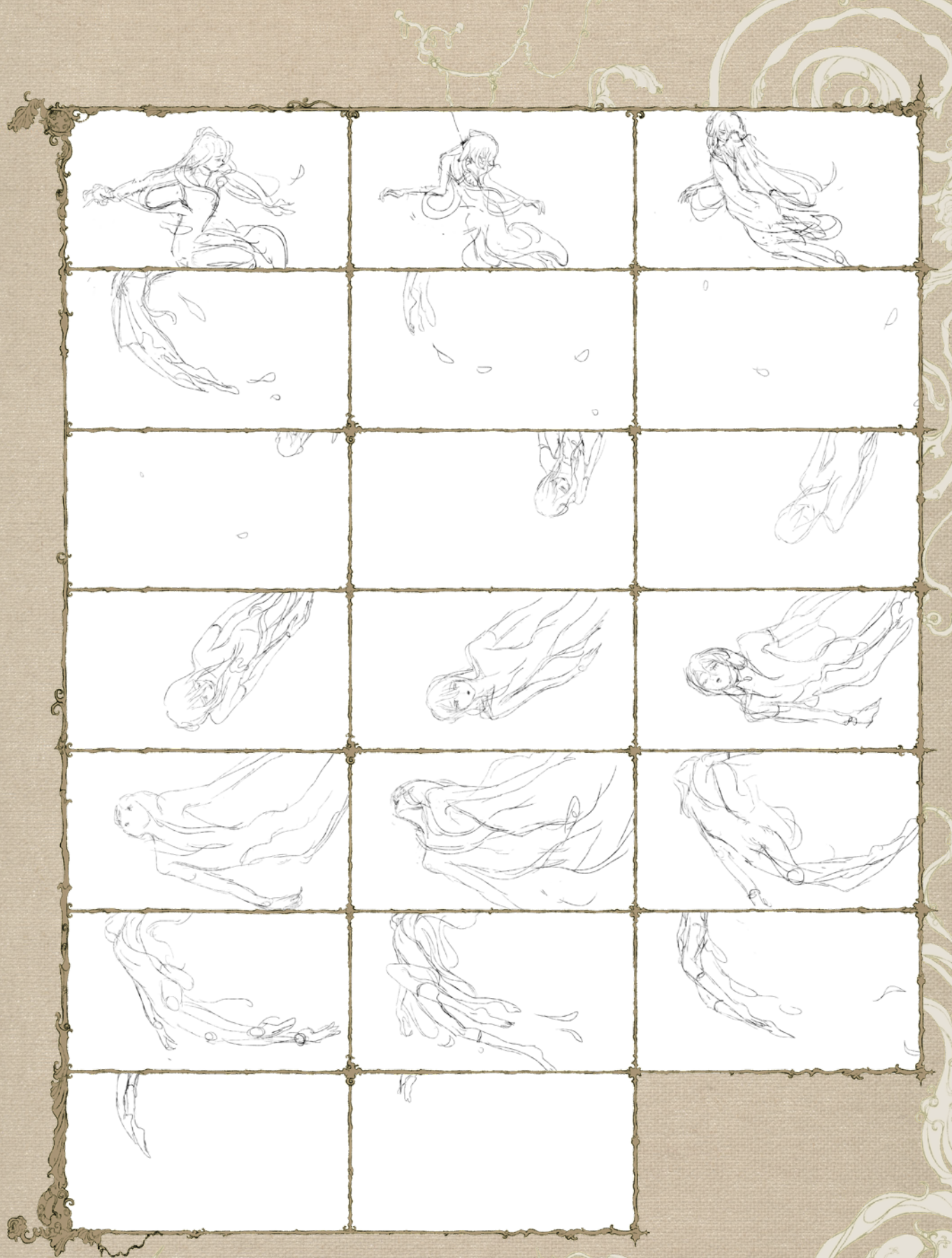


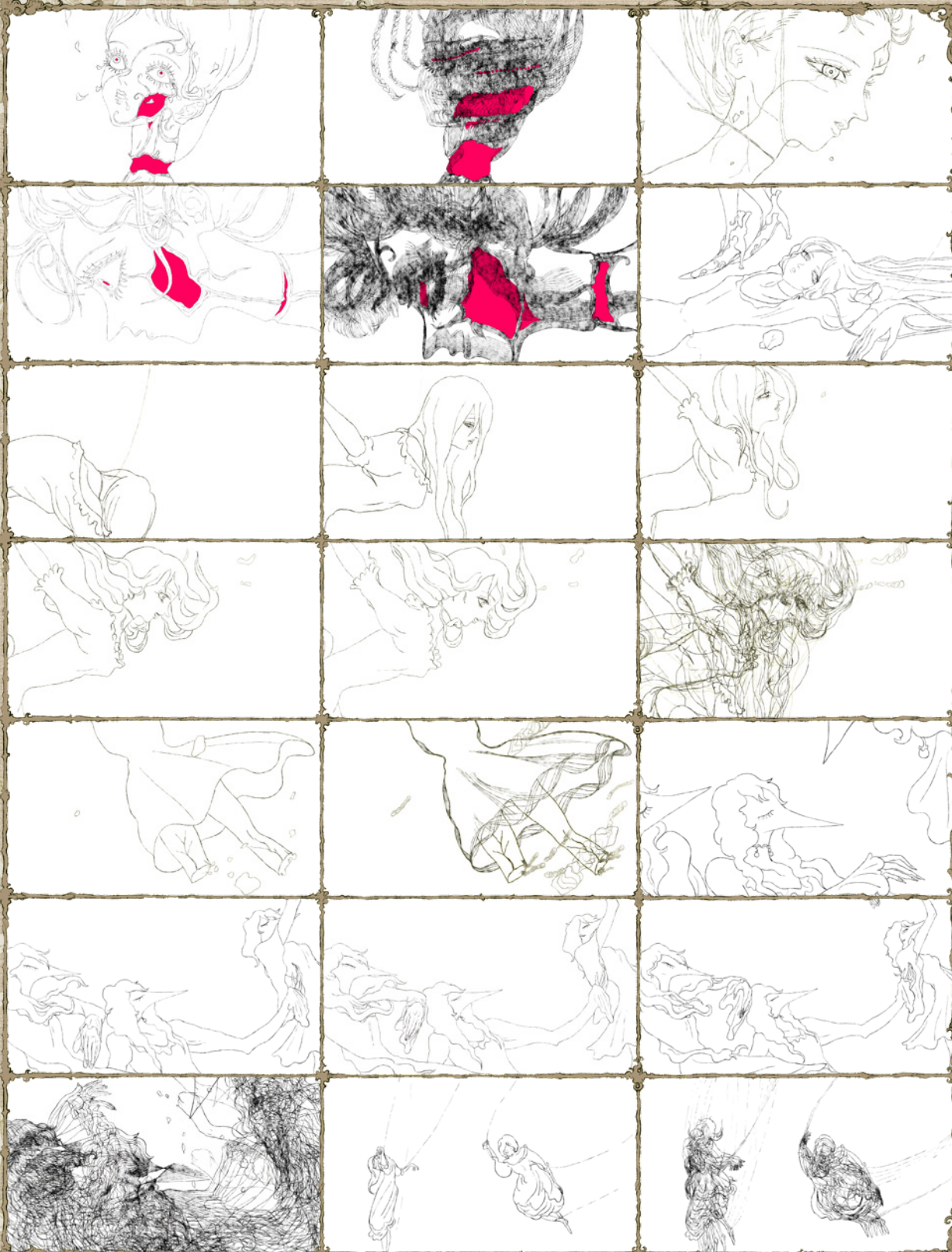
Maybe I should mention that I have never learned how to animate actually, haha... So what you see here is just the way I came up with it. I color the previous frames blue and the future frames red, so I can figure out the inbetween frames. I basically just try to catch the middle line of these two for each corresponding part.

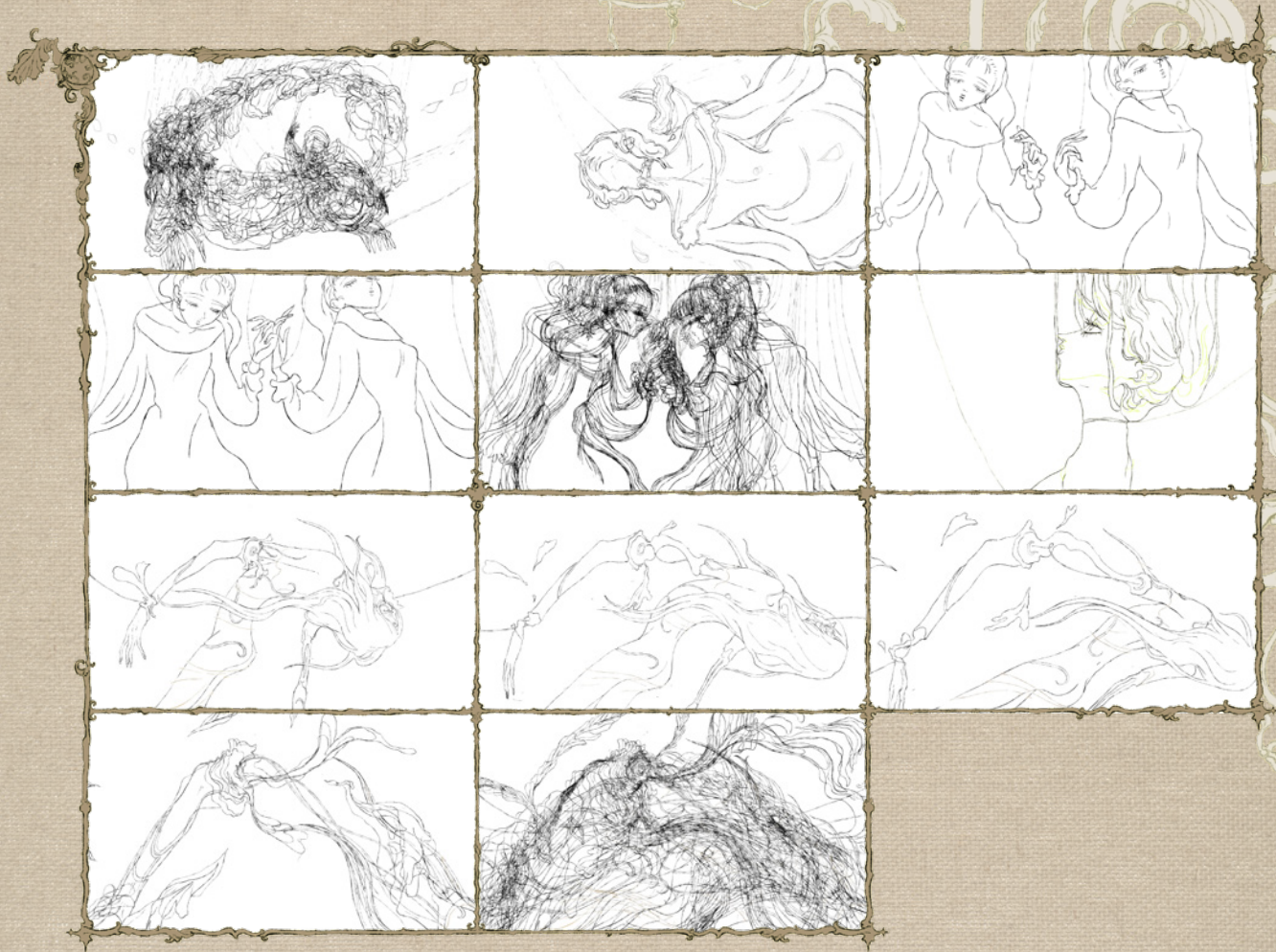












These images are used as disturbing background noise at the 4:08 mark. I only played them at 12 fps, but they still seem rather flashy. As you can see, they are just lineart from previous frames overlapped to each other... but I thought it looked cool. .

Toby wanted me to repeat some previous scenes to save time at the end, but I am bad at following orders, as you can see....



Guide on how to dress like a bishi Showman



Buy a tall
beautiful Man!
(from your favourite store)

The reminiscent
"this reminds me of"
Hat

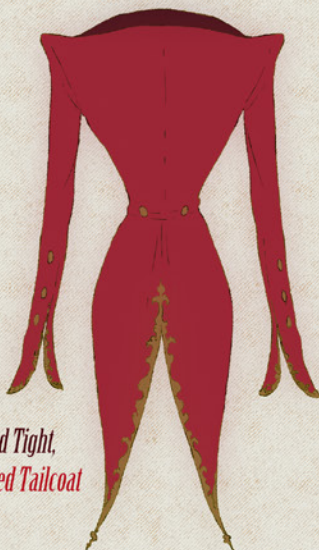


Long wavy
Hair
made from
Spider Silk

A silky Ruff



Preppy and Tight,
The Blood-Red Tailcoat



Elegant
Lace-up Shoes

Golden Cufflinks





Spectacular Makeup, dreamlike Eyelashes

*An exotic and
luxurious Mask*



Sharp Teeth!



*Well-groomed,
horrific Fingernails*

Revealing Waistcoat

Fine high-waist Pants!

*There is absolutely
no other reason
that this drawing is here*



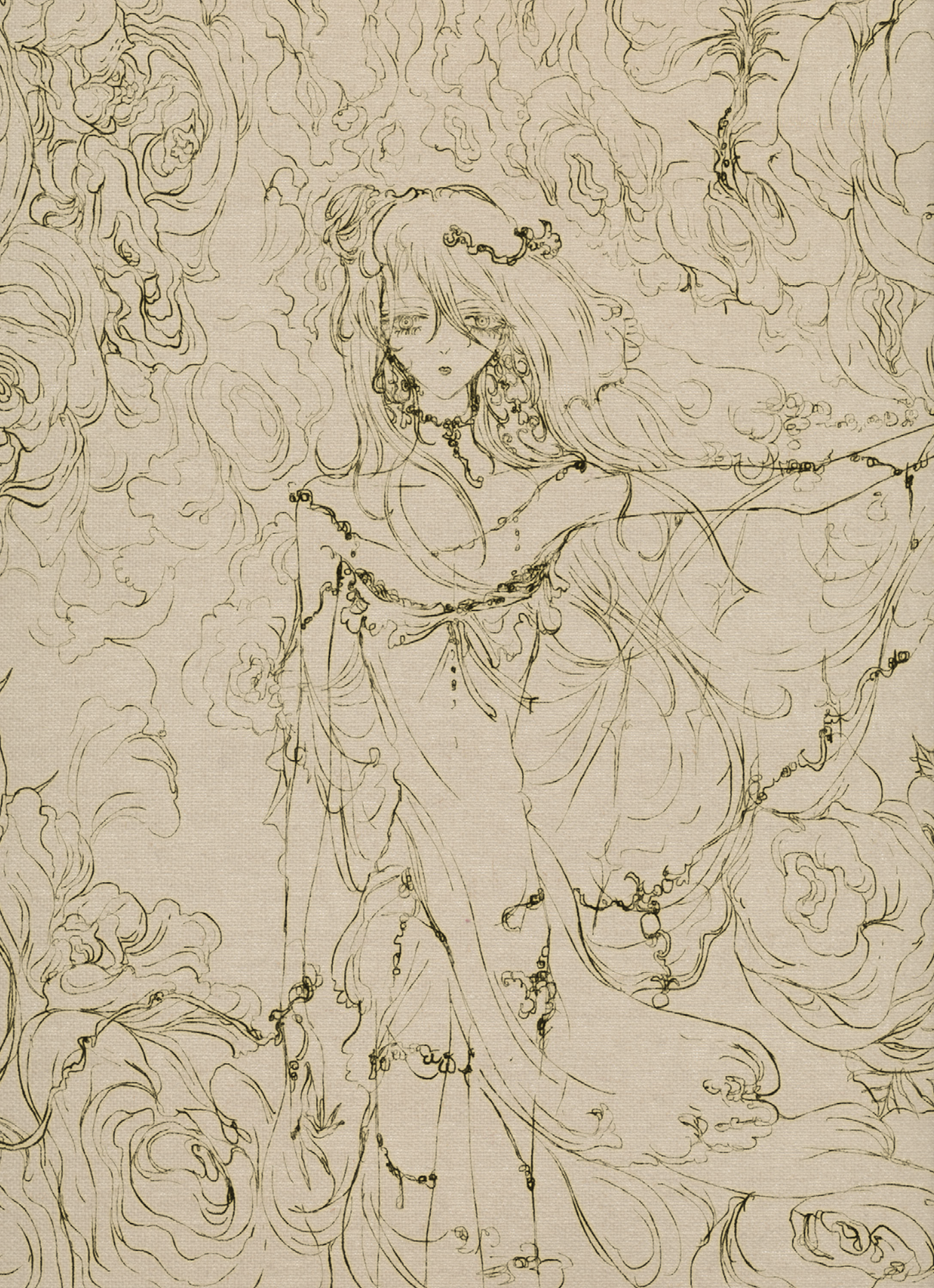
*Smooth,
white Gloves*

*Ruffled Shirt
with emerald
green Buttons*

*Bani
approved*



*in denial of
non existing
self-control*



THE GREATEST LIVING SHOW

Artwork & Music Video by Bani

Music & Story by Toby Fox

Vocals & Lyrics by Itoki Hana

Mastering by Kataoka Yasuhisa

Violin by Noel Sadwin

Piano by Carlos Eiene

Transcription by Marcy Nabors

Website & Merchandise by Fangamer:

Brian Coia • Nathan Cranford • Audrey Waner

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THE GREATEST LIVING SHOW

*Collected Artworks
by Bani*